

Women, children beaten in Bahrain — Amnesty

LONDON (R) — Women and children as young as seven have been arrested, beaten and threatened during pro-democracy activities in Bahrain in the past 18 months, Amnesty International said on Tuesday. The human rights group said in a report that for the first time in the history of Bahrain scores of women had been beaten for having joined in demonstrations or for trying to prevent the arrest of a male relative. Some women have been arrested in order to deter other women from joining public protests and most were held incommunicado for up to two months before being released, usually without charge or trial, it said. "The arrest and beatings of these women were a cynical attempt by the government to stifle criticism and pressure the women to turn over their husbands, fathers and brothers to the authorities," the Amnesty report said.

Jordan Times

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King calls on Parliament to safeguard national unity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a message to Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, in reply to a message the speaker sent to the King earlier on the day.

The King stressed in his message to the speaker the need to foster national unity and criticised some writers who attempt to undermine national unity.

King Hussein voiced appreciation to Mr. Srour and his colleagues, saying that a statement that the

House made Tuesday reflected the deputies' patriotic feelings and their genuine interest in safeguarding national unity (see story on page 3).

King Hussein stressed that Jordan had always fostered and nurtured the values of brotherhood, tolerance, cohesion and solidarity among all its citizens, regardless of their birth places, origins, ideological or political thoughts or beliefs.

King Hussein said national unity was one of

the sources of Jordan's strength and its ability to face up to the challenges and responsibilities.

"I have said once and again that anyone who attempts to tamper with our sacred national unity will be my enemy for ever," the King said.

"It is the duty of every single member of the Jordanian family to stand firm against any attempts to tamper with national unity or distort Jordan's bright image," the King added.

The King called for fostering and strengthening Jordan's democratic march and protecting it against any attempts to obstruct or undermine it by utilising the spirit of tolerance and that have characterised the march of this country.

"I have repeatedly affirmed that the freedom which we are talking about is responsible freedom, and that pluralism is the one that adheres to the Constitution and to the spirit of the National

Charter. It is the pluralism that emanates from this country and not one guided by instructions or programmes dictated from outside, harming Jordan's relations with its Arab brethren."

Pluralism and respect for human rights do not mean that one party or group could claim the right to monopolise knowledge or claim concern for the higher national interest, nor would it mean that any party or group had the right to claim that it

had the right to represent the country or to talk on its behalf, save those institutions which have been entitled to do so by the Constitution, the King said.

"All Jordanians are equal before the Constitution and the law, and no one has an edge over the other except by what he/she offers for his/her country," the King said.

King Hussein voiced hope that newspapers live up to the aspirations of the Jordanian people and that

they propagate the values and principles of this country.

The King called on the media to be free and writers to be honest, adding that very few papers, writers and speakers insist on sowing dissension among members of the one family, undermining the country's achievements.

"While appreciating your national patriotic initiative, I hereby call for further cooperation and coordination between the legislative and executive

Arafat snubs Israeli envoy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has refused to meet an envoy from Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of the deadline Israeli prime minister's inaugural visit to Egypt, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said on Tuesday.

News of the snub came as Mr. Netanyahu's office said he had decided to ease a five-month-old closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip that has stifled Palestinian economic life. It said the specific measures to be taken would only be known later.

"The decision was made to ease the closure. What form it takes is not known yet," Mr. Netanyahu spokesman Michael Stoltz told Reuters. He gave no date for when the measures would take effect.

A senior PLO official said Mr. Netanyahu's top political advisor Dore Gold telephoned on Monday night to ask for a meeting with Mr. Arafat.

"The president refused to meet him," the official, who insisted he not be identified, told Reuters. Other Palestinian officials confirmed the report.

Mr. Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdainah would not comment on the snub, but said: "A meeting between Arafat and Netanyahu is necessary to resume the peace process."

He said there are no political contacts between the new Israeli government and the Palestinian National Authority.

The senior official said that Mohammad Dahlan, head of Palestinian preventive security service in Gaza, would instead meet Mr. Gold in the next two days. He said that Mr. Dahlan would demand that Israel honour the previous government's agreement to

redeploy its troops in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr. Netanyahu's office said in reaction: "There are ongoing contacts between the Israeli government and the Palestinian authority but we are not giving out details of events of recent days."

Israeli-PLO negotiations on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been frozen since Mr. Netanyahu ousted Shimon Peres in May 29 elections.

Mr. Gold sought the Arafat meeting ahead of Mr. Netanyahu's trip to Egypt on Thursday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli media said.

PLO officials said Mr. Arafat refused to meet Mr. Gold because he did not want to allow Mr. Netanyahu to exploit contacts with the Palestinian authority to ease his talks with Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Arafat flew from Gaza to the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday to attend sessions of the Palestinian Legislative Council on Wednesday and Thursday, witnesses said.

Mr. Gold became the first member of Mr. Netanyahu's administration to meet Mr. Arafat on June 27. Mr. Netanyahu has so far resisted meeting Mr. Arafat despite three years of face-to-face talks between the Palestinian leader and Mr. Netanyahu's predecessors.

Arafat states and the Palestinians have been outraged by Mr. Netanyahu's rejection of the principle of trading occupied Arab land for peace, the basis of nearly five years of peace talks.

The right-wing Israeli leader did not soften his position when he met peace talks sponsor U.S. President Bill Clinton last week in Washington.

Kabariti visits Cairo, Tel Aviv in bid to revive peace process

Prime minister says Arabs view Netanyahu's visits to Jordan, Egypt with great significance

AMMAN (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti late Tuesday met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Kabariti arrived in Tel Aviv on a surprise visit after paying a visit to Egypt, where he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa. In Cairo, Mr. Kabariti delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Mr. Mubarak, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It said the message dealt with the latest developments in the region and the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Kabariti said in a statement before leaving for Tel Aviv that the Arab parties to the peace process "place great importance on the forthcoming visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intended to make to both Egypt and Jordan."

"It is very important that the two visits succeed. Otherwise the peace process would witness a setback that would derail it from its path for a long time," he said.

In a statement to the press after meeting Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Kabariti said the King's message was within the framework of consultations between Amman and Cairo on the peace process and the need to pursue efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in accordance with U.N. resolutions and on the principle of exchanging land-for-peace.

"Jordan had requested that Amman and Cairo maintain



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold a surprise meeting in Tel Aviv Tuesday, the Israeli leader's first with an Arab leader since Mr. Netanyahu's election in May (Reuters photo)

close coordination ahead of a visit to Egypt and Jordan by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu," the prime minister said.

"Netanyahu's statements worry us a lot especially when it comes to issues related to Jerusalem and to settlements," Mr. Kabariti said.

"We want to listen to Netanyahu and not to judge on his policies and direction from his statements and speeches," he said.

"Jordan views the peace process in a comprehensive way and there is no peace process without it being comprehensive... Peace must refer to principles of international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle," Mr. Kabariti said.

Mr. Kabariti discussed with President Mubarak means to give momentum to the peace process, Petra said.

The Syrian Foreign Minister, who was also in Cairo to meet President Mubarak, said that the Arab World will reject any attempt by Israel to change the ground rules in Middle East peace negotiations.

He repeated Syria's demand that Israel return the Golan Heights, a plateau occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed, calling it his country's "fixed position."

Mr. Mubarak met Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Sharaa to discuss the Middle East peace process in advance of a visit here on Thursday by Israel's new premier, Benjamin Netanyahu.

It will be Mr. Netanyahu's first visit to an Arab country since his election last May.

Mr. Sharaa and Mr. Kabariti also held private talks before leaving Cairo.

Mr. Netanyahu is to visit Jordan after July 25, and Mr. Kabariti was asked what Jordan expects from the new Israeli prime minister said.

"We want to hear from him and not judge him and his politics through his statements," he added.

He added: "Everything Netanyahu says is negotiable... and both sides want to negotiate to see how many concessions they can get to reach a balanced peace."

The talks followed a visit to Egypt on Sunday by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state, often serves as mediator

U.N. inspects 'sensitive' sites in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — International weapons experts have been able to inspect a number of sites that Iraq deems "sensitive," a U.N. arms official in Baghdad said on Tuesday.

The official said the searches, which were not impeded by Iraq, were the first since Baghdad and the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) defused a crisis over access last month.

"We have searched a number of sensitive sites. There have been no problems," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iraq and UNSCOM reached an agreement on June 22 for unconditional access to sites for U.N. inspection teams.

The accord resolved Iraq's latest row with the U.N. Security Council over access to four Republican

Guard facilities that Baghdad said were vital for its national sovereignty.

The agreement gave UNSCOM inspectors unrestricted and immediate and unconditional entry to any site in Iraq. UNSCOM in turn pledged to fully respect Iraq's concerns over sovereignty, accepting an Iraqi condition to allow a senior Iraqi official to accompany UNSCOM inspectors visiting such sites.

The official declined to identify the sites the inspectors had searched.

UNSCOM, which was set up after the 1991 Gulf war ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait, is overseeing U.N. demands that Iraq scrap its chemical and biological weapons as well as ballistic missiles with ranges greater than 150 kilometres.

The sanctions on Iraq include a ban on oil exports. The removal of oil export curbs, other than limited sales permitted by U.N. for humanitarian purposes, largely depends on testimony by UNSCOM that Iraq is clean of such weapons.

Iraq says it has nothing left to hide and insists that it has met requirements allowing it free oil exports.

Meanwhile Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has reportedly detained a nephew and put a son-in-law under house arrest, an opposition group said Tuesday.

The opposition group said the government detained Ahmed Watban Al-Hassan shortly after his father — a former interior minister and President Saddam's half-brother — was put under house arrest last month.

President Saddam also put his son-in-law, Ahmed Mustafa, under house arrest, the group said in a statement faxed to the Associated Press. The statement said Mr. Mustafa was arrested after his wife Hala, the president's youngest daughter, refused to divorce him.

But a spokesman for the council, Akram Al-Hakim, told the AP that the arrests seemed to be linked to a power struggle within the family following the killing of two of the president's sons-in-law in January after they returned from exile in Jordan.

JPA drops newspaper owners, insists on mandatory membership

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the end of a week-long debate over a draft legislation that would govern the work of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), the association new board offered a partial compromise in its dispute with the Ministry of Information over the legislation.

JPA President Self Sherif told the Jordan Times that while the association board agreed to some of the articles in the draft law it clung to "mandatory membership" and the "definition of the journalist."

"We agreed to cancel an article in the current law that called for a quota for newspaper owners in the JPA board," Mr. Sherif said.

"We also agreed to accept journalists that have practised journalism since 1986 even if they did not work for Jordanian publications," he added.

He said applying this article would allow many established journalists to join the association.

But the JPA insisted on the old law's definition of "a journalist," which only considers JPA members as journalists. The draft law which was presented by the government defines the journalist as "anyone

that takes journalism as his/her main job."

The JPA says the proposed definition would open the door wide for non-journalists to join the ranks of the association whose membership has been strictly controlled.

The JPA also rejected an article that would allow the employees of Jordan Television and Radio to join the association as practising members but said it will accept them only as "associate members."

Mr. Sherif said the JPA amendments which were submitted yesterday will be discussed by the Cabinet and later referred to

Parliament for ratification.

"If the JPA amendments were not taken into consideration by the government we will approach deputies when the law is referred to Parliament and try to convince them of our views," Mr. Sherif stressed.

The Ministry of Information and the JPA has been at loggerheads over the draft law which the JPA law says it has not been consulted on.

The draft law which was presented by the government in May would replace another one that dates back to 1983 and has left tens of established journalists outside the association.

Clinton expects full Saudi cooperation in probe

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton on Monday sent a clear message to Saudi Arabia that the United States expected its full cooperation on an investigation into the bombing that killed 19 U.S. servicemen near Dhahran.

Mr. Clinton's comments came amid growing concern in Washington that Saudi officials are not fully cooperating in the search for the perpetrators of the June 25 bombing.

Asked in an interview on the MSNBC network why he didn't simply phone King Fahd and demand better cooperation, Mr. Clinton replied, "No, we've had several talks about it and we expect that they will cooperate. And I think there will be cooperation. I do expect it."

"Any time a crime is committed and a country is high profile, that nation wants to believe that it can handle it and do what's right. And I

understand that," he said. "But this is a case with international ramifications and we have to cooperate."

U.S. defence officials earlier denied published reports that Saudi investigators had found the getaway car used in the bombing north of Dhahran.

"The car that was found is apparently not the vehicle involved in the June 25 incident," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

U.S. concerns about Saudi cooperation mounted on Sunday when the official Saudi Press Agency reported that Defence Minister Prince Sultan said Riyadh did not favour a Pentagon proposal to move some of the 5,000 U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia away from high bases to safer areas of the kingdom.

But one defence official said the Saudis had contacted the Pentagon on Monday to say Prince Sultan had

been misquoted and had not shut the door on the shift of some U.S. troops.

The officials said the matter was under discussion and a formal proposal had not been presented to the Saudis. They added that the Saudis had assured the Pentagon of ongoing cooperation in protecting U.S. forces.

The FBI said on Monday that agency director Louis Freeh had returned from a second trip to Saudi Arabia on Sunday to discuss access to evidence gathered in the investigation.

FBI officials declined to discuss details of the visit or the probe, but one official said the visit concerned "problems regarding cooperation."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns also declined to discuss the Freeh visit but suggested Prince Sultan had not ruled out moving U.S. troops to

safer areas.

"Our relations with Saudi Arabia remain very good, very positive," Mr. Burns told reporters. "We have a very firm commitment from King Fahd that he will do what he must to cooperate with us to enhance, improve security for our troops. That commitment was given to the president and to (Defence) Secretary (William) Perry and we take it very seriously ..."

The Washington Post, quoting administration officials, reported on Monday that Mr. Freeh had flown to Saudi Arabia last week because of mounting U.S. concern over cooperation from Saudi officials in the investigation.

A truck carrying 5,000 pounds (2,300 kilograms) of explosives detonated on June 25 near a high-rise apartment building in the Khobar Towers military housing complex near Dhahran. The blast

killed 19 servicemen and injured 250 others.

The Pentagon said on Monday that retired U.S. army Gen. Wayne Downing, named by Mr. Perry to assess the adequacy of U.S. and Saudi security measures before the bombing, would arrive in Dhahran on Friday to continue his investigation.

Mr. Perry was assured by top Saudi officials during a visit to Riyadh two weeks ago of full cooperation on the investigation. But Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, also told reporters during the visit that Saudi investigators were up to the job and needed only FBI technical assistance.

The Defence Department warned Americans in Saudi Arabia of possible new attacks following last month's truck bombing. No suspects have been arrested in the bombing.



Information Minister Marwan Muasher (centre), surrounded by Jordan News Agency director Abdullah Utom (left) and former Information Minister Mohammad Khatib attend Petra's celebration of its 27th anniversary (Petra photo)

Parliament to debate laws on media in upcoming session, Muasher says

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher announced Tuesday that the government will submit to Parliament in its coming fall session draft laws on the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Jordan Television, Radio Jordan and the Jordan Press Association.

Speaking during a celebration of the national news agency's 27th anniversary, the minister said that the law on Petra will allow the agency a greater margin of freedom as well as administrative and financial independence.

Also speaking during the celebration was former Minister of Information and former Director of the agency Mohammad Khatib, who outlined the activities of the agency since 1969 and praised its development over the years.

Directors of information services and representatives of the media were present at the ceremony.

Gunmen demand money for release of Somali ship

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somali gunmen are demanding a large ransom for the release of a large fishing boat and its 37-man crew they have been holding hostage since Friday.

Sources close to faction leader Ali Mahdi Mohammad, whose men seized the Farah Omar off the small Indian Ocean port of El Der 350 kilometres north of Mogadishu, would only say Monday that "a large amount of money" was at issue.

The sources said the ship has been supplying Somali clans with weapons, apparently from

the Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

Negotiations, reportedly mediated by an Italian relief agency, were underway for the release of the ship, the sources said.

At least two Italians and five other foreigners were among the hostages. They included Tanzanians and Portuguese, sources said.

The ship is owned by men who once worked for the Somali Ports Authority when Somalia was a functioning state and by naval engineer-turned-businessman Said Omar Murye.

Mr. Murye, who lives in Italy, seized the ship after the 1991 ouster of the dic-

tator Mohamed Siad Barre. The country later disintegrated into fiefdoms of warring clans.

The hijackers were apparently annoyed by the termination of a contract between the ship's owners and its crew.

According to the sources, the hijackers, four of whom are crew members, claim the ship had been engaged in illegal fishing.

The ship has been anchored just north of El Der since Sunday in territory controlled by Ali Mahdi, who also controls north Mogadishu.

Rebel jet defects to Afghani government

KABUL (R) — A rebel Afghan pilot defected to government forces on Tuesday with a missile-armed MiG-21 jet fighter that landed at Bagram air base north of Kabul, a government commander said.

The commander, General Muslim, told reporters that the pilot, Abdul Jalil, of the Taliban Islamic militia landed his plane at Bagram at 10.45 a.m. (0615 GMT) after being driven away by anti-aircraft fire over Kabul.

The jet was carrying four air-to-air missiles and had flown from the Taliban headquarters in the southern town of Kandahar for a routine patrol, he said.

There was no immediate explanation why the jet, which was shot down by anti-aircraft fire, while it hovered over Kabul if the pilot wanted to defect and whether it was

forced to land at Bagram by government fighters.

Gen. Muslim said the pilot was later taken away for a meeting with President Burhanuddin Rabbani's top military commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

If confirmed, it will be first known defection of a Taliban pilot to government forces.

The incident happened three weeks after former opposition faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar took over as prime minister after a peace pact with Mr. Rabbani and also appealed to other opposition factions to join his interim cabinet.

Taliban forces, which control most of southern, western and eastern Afghanistan, have besieged Kabul since October in their drive to try to oust Mr. Rabbani's government.

Algerian newspapers strike to protest cartoonist's jailing

ALGERIERS (AP) — Journalists for Algeria's top independent newspapers went on strike Monday to press for the freedom of a cartoonist jailed for poking fun at the flag.

The independent journalists and editors stayed at home in a one-day protest aimed at persuading the government to release Chawki Amari, a cartoonist for the French-language La Tribune newspaper, who was arrested Monday after drawing a cartoon of Algeria's July 5 independence day celebrations that depicted Algerian flags on display like underwear in a lingerie shop.

Algerian authorities sealed the offices of La Tribune, an independent bi-weekly. In a show of solidarity, five independent dailies with a combined circulation of about 600,000 were missing from newsstands Monday.

Algeria's independence newspapers are a democratic voice for the North African nation, bloodied by a four-

year Islamic insurgency in which more than 40,000 people have been killed.

Monday's strike, however, was not broad enough to impose a news blackout on the Algerian capital. The government owns several large-circulation dailies and holds a monopoly on TV and radio stations.

Algeria's insurgency began in January 1992, when the military-backed government cancelled elections that Islamic fundamentalist candidates were poised to win.

Egyptian police send suspect in death of American for psychiatric evaluation

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian man accused of stabbing an American woman at a Cairo hotel refused to speak during an interrogation by police and was referred for psychiatric examination, security officials said Tuesday.

The U.S. embassy identified the victim as Judith Iris Goldenberg, 56, a native of Illinois. Embassy officials said that she was assigned here as "summer relief" by the Defence Department, but gave no other details. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The suspect in the case, Omar Mohammed Noaman, 28, was arrested Monday night immediately after the

stabbing at the Semiramis International Hotel, a five-star hotel on the Nile.

Police said Mr. Noaman had a history of psychiatric problems and that they do not believe there was involvement of Muslim extremists, who have sometimes targeted foreigners in an anti-government campaign of violence.

Mr. Noaman's mother, Zeleikha Al Sayed, said her son had been mentally ill for 12 years but had not been known to be violent, according to the security officials.

She told police she had last seen him Monday night when he asked for 20 Egyptian pounds (\$5) to go out and buy a sandwich, they said. They

spoke on condition their names not be used.

The attack occurred about 9:30 p.m. (1830 GMT) as Ms. Goldenberg was entering the main door of the hotel and had just approached the metal detector that all visitors must go through. The attacker then ran up and stabbed her fatally in the back.

Muslim extremists have waged a campaign of violence since the spring of 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. More than 960 people have died, most of them police or extremists. Twenty-six foreigners have been among the victims.

TEL AVIV (AP) — A witness in the trial of three men accused of conspiring to kill Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin testified Tuesday that "hundreds" of people heard the assassin discuss his plans.

Yigal Amir, already serving a life sentence for Mr. Rabin's murder, is being tried on conspiracy charges along with his brother Hagai and a friend, Dror Adani. All three have pleaded innocent.

Margalit Har Sheti, a West Bank settler and former classmate of Amir's, said Monday that Amir had talked "many, many times" about his plan to

kill Mr. Rabin. "Hundreds of people heard him," she told a Tel Aviv district court. Har Sheti avoided making eye contact with Amir, who mouthed the words "liar, liar" as she spoke.

The 26-year-old Amir, who spent most of the court session laughing with his brother and wailing to his parents, doodled on a pad of paper: "Curiosity killed the cat."

Outside the courtroom, Hagai Amir's lawyer was elated. "There is no difference between Har Sheti and my client," he said. "They both

heard Yigal talk of the murder. Hundreds of people did. That doesn't make anyone a criminal."

Har Sheti was detained for 15 days after Rabin's Nov. 4 assassination on suspicion of involvement in the conspiracy. Prosecutors have said she could still face charges in connection with the killing.

Subpoenaed to testify after refusing to appear voluntarily, Har Sheti was excused from answering any question which could incriminate her. Judge Amnon Shashnov instructed her not to answer several questions from the prosecutor,

including whether she thought Mr. Rabin was a traitor.

Har Sheti said in the past that Amir told her he wanted to kill Mr. Rabin in order to impress her.

Har Sheti said she did not know Adani but that Hagai Amir had never expressed the extremist views of his brother.

"Hagai would tell his brother to drop the nonsense when he spoke about killing Rabin," she said.

According to testimony presented at Amir's murder trial, however, the three defendants told police that they had discussed ways of killing Mr.

Rabin to stop him from giving away "Jewish land" to the Palestinians.

Yigal Amir insists that he acted alone when he killed Rabin. Hagai Amir and Adani have admitted that Yigal told them he planned to kill Mr. Rabin, but said they never believed he was serious.

The three are also charged with conspiracy to attack Palestinians.

Har Sheti told the court Tuesday that Yigal Amir had asked her to help set up a Jewish underground militia to protect Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

Witness: Hundreds heard Amir talks of plans to kill Rabin

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:00Flint Stones
15:30Iris
15:45 Bill Nye the Science Guy
16:10Olympics
17:00News Flash
17:02Les Pollaurs
17:30Serie — Simenon
19:00Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30News Headlines
19:35Evening Shade
20:00Super Stars of Action
20:30Drama — Chancer
21:10Drama — Hunter
22:00News in English
22:25The Bold and Beautiful
23:15Drama — Bugs

PRAYER TIMES

04:04Fajr
05:26(Sunrise) Duha
12:42Dhuhr
16:22Asr
19:47Maghreb
21:19Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church 5 weiffieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tel. 771331

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Temperatures are expected to rise becoming slightly above average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

Min./Max. temp. Amman18/33
Aqaba25/39
Deserts17/36
Jordan Valley23/38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh 819220
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikhab 752405
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih790104
Dr. Rudi Sukkar856457
Firas pharmacy661912
Ferdows pharmacy890280
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh250080
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rabah Al Bourini 990312
Khalifeh pharmacy985417
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00Damascus (RJ)
09:15Dhahran (add) (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:55Larnaca (RJ)
10:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:00Paris (RJ)
18:15Istanbul (RJ)
19:00Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:15London, Berlin (RJ)
19:15Rome (RJ)
19:50Madrid (RJ)
00:30Beirut (RJ)
02:20Cairo (RJ)
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
11:00Rome (RJ)
11:40Berlin, London (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45Istanbul (RJ)
20:20Colombo (RJ)
20:45Beirut (RJ)
21:10Riyadh (RJ)
21:10Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:20New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:00Dhahran (add) (RJ)
22:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:45Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights
04:00Amsterdam (KL)
08:45Beirut (ME)
09:15London (BA)
13:00Sanaa (IY)
13:45Jeddah (SV)
14:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
13:15Cairo (MS)
13:40Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30Tunis (TU)
16:20Algiers (AH)
19:00Dubai (EK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apricot850/500
Apple700/500
Banana600/600
Banana (mulharman)520/520
Banana (imported)830/600
Cabbage260/180
Carrot120/80
Cauliflower240/140
Cucumber (large)130/80
Cucumber (small)220/130
Eggplant190/140
Garlic650/400
Lemon650/400
Marrow (large)250/150
Marrow (small)430/250
Mulukhiyah130/80
Onion (dry)130/80
Okra700/500
Orange400/300
Plum360/250
Peach430/250
Pepper (hot)300/200
Pepper (sweet)320/220
Potato320/220
String Bean500/300
Sweet melon180/120
Tomato120/70
Water melon110/70

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday met with a delegation from the American Defence Policy Advisory Committee on Tuesday at the Palace in Amman.

Queen meet:

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The delegation, led by Secretary of the Committee on the Arms and Services (COWS) at the White House, was headed by Secretary of the Committee on the Arms and Services (COWS) at the White House, who outlined the activities of the agency since 1969 and praised its development over the years.

Directors of information services and representatives of the media were present at the ceremony.

Also speaking during the celebration was former Minister of Information and former Director of the agency Mohammad Khatib, who outlined the activities of the agency since 1969 and praised its development over the years.

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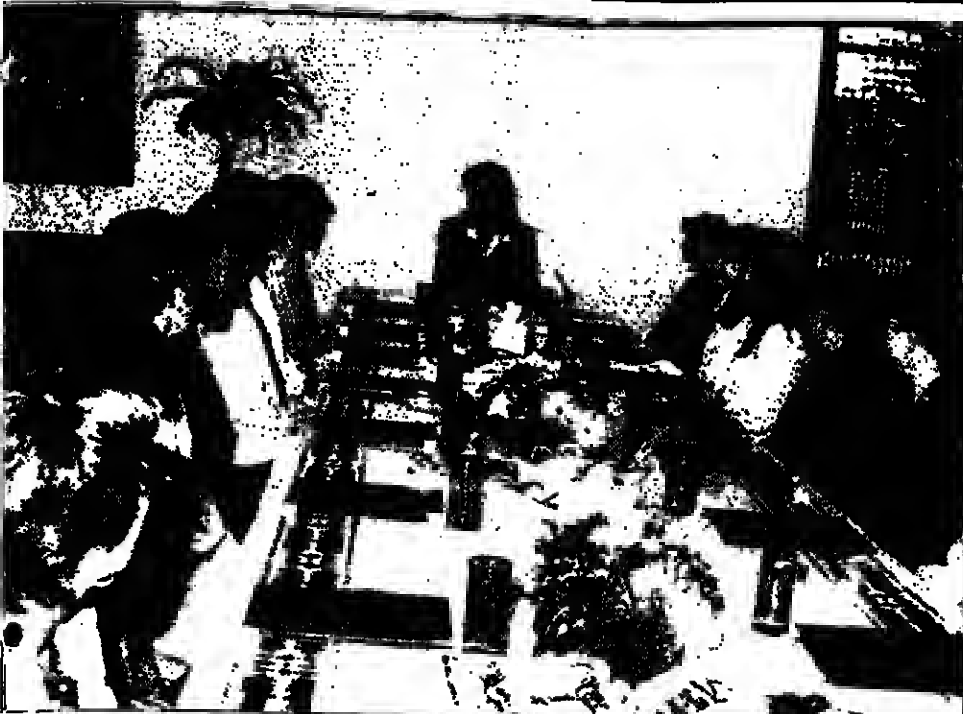
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Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday meets with a delegation from the American Defence Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) and briefs them on Jordan's political and socio-economic developments (Petra photo)

Queen meets with DACOWITS

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday met with a delegation from the American Defence Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) at Al Ma'wa Palace, a Royal Court statement said.

DACOWITS is a committee established in 1951 by the U.S. Defence Department and comprises civilian women and men, who are appointed by the secretary of defence to provide him with advice and recommendations on the effective and equitable utilisation of women in the Armed Forces, and on matters and policies relating to the mission readiness of American military women.

There are more than 327,000 American military women assigned within the active duty and reserve components of the armed services, serving on combatant vessels and in billets (camps/barracks) in Rwanda and Somalia previously and now in Bosnia, the statement said.

In her welcoming remarks, Queen Noor briefed the delegation on Jordan's political and socio-economic developments over the past 50 years, highlighting the country's democratic achievements, its human rights record which is considered to be the best in the region and its commitment to a comprehensive and just peace.

According to the statement, the Queen emphasised the importance of enhancing intersectoral cooperation between the public and private sector as well as the military estab-

lishment, particularly in promoting national development and assisting in the management and protection of the country's natural and cultural resources. She, the statement added, referred to a recent report by the International Commission for Peace and Food, a non-profit, non-political organisation of which she is a member, which focuses on redirecting military resources into programmes to promote peace, democracy, environmental conservation, food security and employment. The Queen, according to the statement, said that this has been achieved in Jordan through the unique role of the Jordanian Armed Forces, who have played an active and vital role in non-traditional sectors, particularly health, environmental protection and management, research and development.

Following her remarks, the statement added, Queen Noor answered questions by the delegation on her recent trip to Tuzla in commemoration of the fall of Srebrenica and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) development projects for women. The Queen commended the "courage and valour" of the Jordanian and American peace-keeping troops deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who have been instrumental in protecting the Muslim men, women and children from Serbian aggression and persecution, and stressed the need to focus political pressure to ensure the implementation of the Dayton peace accords. The statement added that Her

Majesty also briefed them on NHF's projects, which emphasise the empowerment of women, introduced new ideas and advanced national development thinking by progressing beyond traditional charity-oriented social welfare practices to innovative income-generating schemes based on self-empowerment and home production.

DACOWITS' mission 45 years ago began as an intensified recruiting programme to attract women into armed service and gradually changed into one of promoting the acceptance of military service as a career for women.

According to the statement, they were instrumental in passing bills to improve the well-being of women in the Armed Forces, the most notable being the removal of promotion ceilings for women in 1967 leading President Lyndon Johnson to say, "there is no reason why we should not someday have a female chief-of-staff, or even a female commander-in-chief."

DACOWITS, who were invited to Jordan by the Jordanian Army's Directorate of Women's Affairs (DWA) headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein, will meet with Jordanian Armed Forces officials and tour military bases during their stay, the statement said.

It added that Their Royal Highnesses Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein and Princess Basma Ali, who are Major and Captain of DWA respectively, attended the event.

New export produce storage facility to open at QAIA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and the Jordanian Agricultural Marketing Corporation (JAMC) Tuesday signed an agreement on the establishment of a cold storage for perishable goods at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), an RJ source said.

The storage facility, which is funded by the U.S. government at a cost of \$600,000, is expected to start operating in October. It will be administered by the air freight branch at QAIA and will receive agricultural products destined for export. The facility will store the produce at appropriate temperatures, and load it on-board planes bound for its final destination.

The project will guarantee the fresh arrival of Jordanian produce to foreign markets and will increase exports worldwide.

Bosnia residents of Mideast countries may be able to vote, says envoy

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bosnian residents and refugees in the Middle East might be able to participate in the coming Bosnia-Herzegovina general elections and vote from Jordan, sources at the Bosnian embassy told the Jordan Times.

The Bosnian embassy in Amman, which opened last year and is in charge also for covering Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Israel, has invited all Bosnians in the area to contact the consular office and register in the electoral list.

"If we collect a minimum of 5,000 registrations, we will open a voting centre in Amman," Consultant for Economic Affairs at the Bosnian Embassy Jihad Tayeen told the Jordan Times.

The general Bosnian elections, both for the presidency and the parliament, will be held on Sept. 14.

Sarajevo instructed the Bosnian embassy in Amman to prepare a list of voters to be sent to the Bosnian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



A Bosnian family sits down to have lunch at the relief centre set up by the Hashemite Charity Organisation when Jordan first began to host Bosnian families (Archives photo)

According to embassy sources, there are around 1,000 Bosnians currently residing in Jordan.

"Bosnians arrived here in three waves: the first group, around one year ago, thanks to the good offices of Jordanian charity associations, the second group arrived

here through U.N. agencies with the status of refugees and, finally, the third group of Bosnians coming to Jordan was made up of people who succeeded with their own means to flee the country and escape the war," Mr. Tayeen said.

The total number of Bosnians residing in the entire Middle East region has not been calculated yet, but "these elections could help us put together more precise figures," said Mr. Tayeen, adding that 14 different parties are running in the coming Bosnian parliamentary elections.

Amman-based charities condemn Israeli excavations at Islamic sites in Jerusalem

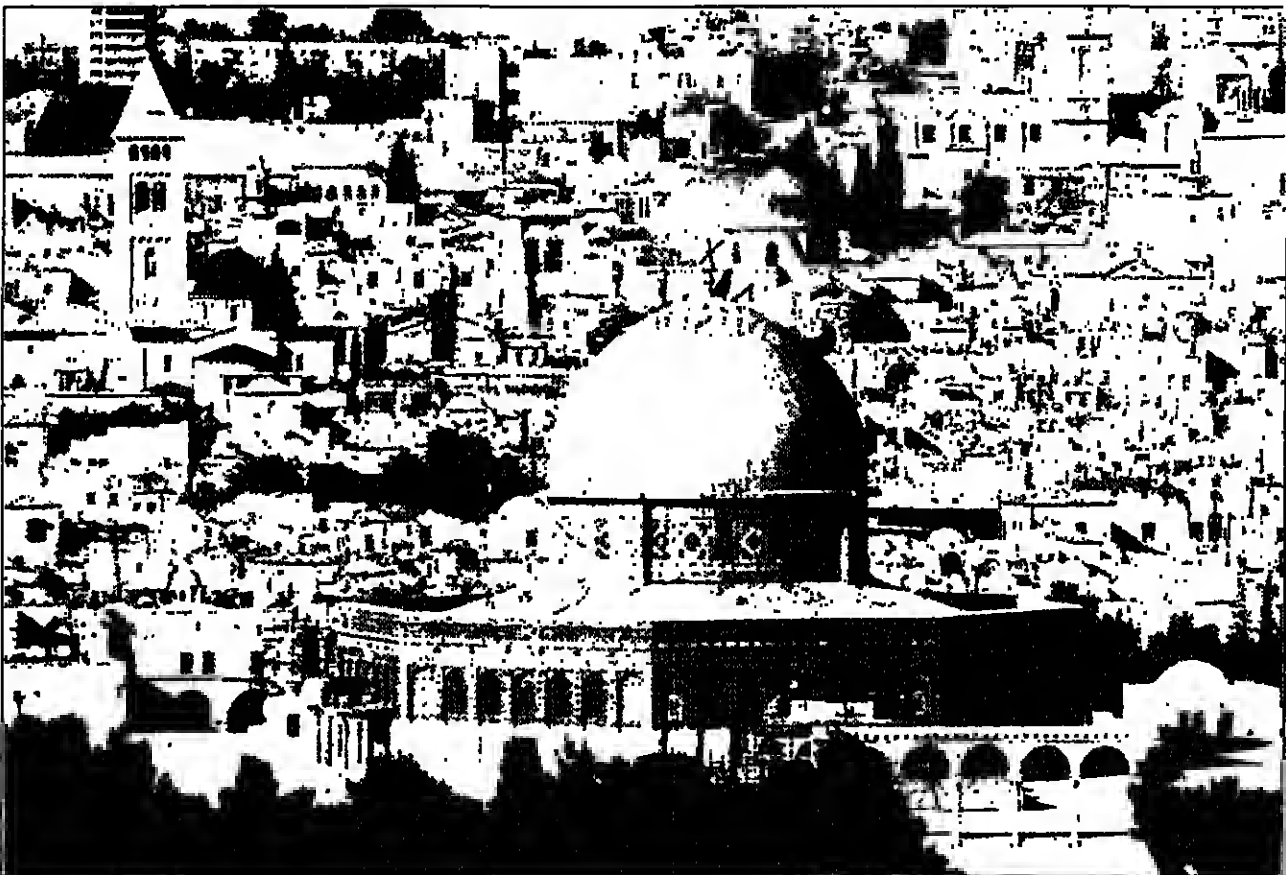
AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 15 Amman-based charitable and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) affiliated to towns within the Jerusalem area Tuesday issued a statement condemning the current Israeli excavations under the Al Aqsa Mosque and Muslim cemeteries in Silwan and other areas around the holy city.

The statement said the Israeli authorities are targeting the Aqsa Mosque and the Islamic sites and cemeteries in order to eliminate the Muslim character of the city and Judaise the Arab sector of the city.

The digging up of Muslim graves in Jerusalem has been conducted for years, said the statement, adding that this practice seeks to remove all traces of Islamic heritage from the city and its surrounding areas. The statement said that some of the tombs being desecrated are those of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad.

The statement also said that the Israelis have dug a tunnel underneath the Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem causing cracks in the walls of the holy shrine and surrounding Arab homes within the walled city.

Under the present Likud government work on these excavations is being con-



A view of the old city of Jerusalem

ducted at a swifter pace and thus coincides with calls by Jewish groups to divide the Aqsa Mosque between Muslims and Jews similar to the partition of Hebron. The aim, said the statement, is to allow Jews

access to the Muslim shrine.

The statement called on various international organisations and Islamic nations to exercise pressure on the Israeli government to halt such activities and

urged the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to intervene to save these historical Islamic places from destruction. Representing the signatory Jerusalem organisations, Subhi Ghosbeh, told the

Jordan Times that the group has been active in supporting Jerusalem Arabs and Arab towns close to the holy city. He said that last year the organisation collected a total of JD 150,000 to support Palestinians under

Parliament issues statement on national responsibilities

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament Tuesday issued a statement urging all constitutional authorities and the media to take measures to stem what it called "actions and writings on the part of certain groups trying to harm national unity and Arab and Islamic values and ethics."

"Jordan has always served as an example of national unity under the Hashemite leadership, and its people have always acted as partners in building and protecting national security and stability and safeguarding the country's interests. But recently some writings and comments have emerged trying to damage the fabric of national unity and harm the country's Arab and Islamic values," said the statement.

The statement proposed a seven-point plan to guide the various constitutional organisations in dealing with the situation:

1 — Enhancement of the sense of national belonging among Jordanians through educational and cultural channels,

the media and religion.

2 — Corroboration of the principles of justice and equality based on clear principles, dealing firmly with any attempts to tamper with these principles regardless of their sources and immediate attention to grievances and complaints. Such action would uphold the principle of the equality of all Jordanian citizens before the law.

3 — Guaranteeing the representation of citizens in all constitutional organisations.

4 — The Cabinet, the Parliament, public organisations and the media are called on to serve as models in their commitment to national unity and in protecting the nation's values and safeguarding its ethics.

5 — Free expression and freedom of thought are personal rights guaranteed under the Constitution, but these are and should always be exercised within the boundaries of the law and within the framework of Arab and Islamic values and the higher national interests. These freedoms should not infringe on the freedoms

of others or impinge on their rights in any way.

6 — The Press and Publications Law and the penal code should be enforced against all who try to incite ethnic, sectarian, regional and factional extremism, or publish offensive material. The government is called on to honour its commitment to parliament by presenting the house with a draft law, providing more severe punishment for crimes of this nature.

7 — Steps should be taken for the revival of the National Guidance Council and to empower it to safeguard the cohesion of the nation.

The statement said that the House will set up a national guidance committee at its next ordinary session in the fall to follow up on the implementation of these principles. The statement was issued one day after an informal house meeting during which deputies of various political affiliations presented their views about national unity and coverage of topics in the press considered offensive to the public and the ethics of Islam.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

Concert by Jordanian artist Rihab Rabab at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE

"Medieval Rock Cut Churches in the Mediterranean World" by Dr. Michael Cervantes at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696662)

EXHIBITIONS

Abstract (plastic) art by Samar Sabra and Nadia Awadiah entitled "Peace in the Eyes of the Youth" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also displaying works on national heritage by Yibla Charitable Society, until July 18.

Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Rashid Diab entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Funun, Jabbal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.

Black and white paintings exhibition of works conducted in half a century (1913-1966) entitled "Heureux Dimanche" at the French Cultural Centre, until July 20.

Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Waqf Saqra Street (Tel. 699145/2), until July 25.

Under the Patronage of H.E. the Mayor of Amman
Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi

THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION
in cooperation with
AMMAN GREATER MUNICIPALITY

present an
EVENING OF WALTZES (164 musicians)

Philadelphia USA meets Philadelphia Jordan
Philadelphia Youth Orchestra
and
The Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory
conductor: Joseph Primavera

The program features Strauss' Fledermaus Overture,
The Emperor Waltz, Tales from Vienna Woods and others.

Thursday, 18 July 1996 - 8:30 p.m.
Abdullah Bin Al Hussein Square,
opposite the Prime Ministry
Ticket Price: JD 5

Tickets available at:
- Ardiana, tel. 647858
- Alahla Abeli Superstore, tel. 688481
- Alcar Flowers, tel. 827695
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Cafe Moka, tel. 856285
- Characters, tel. 079-27106
- Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
- Music Box, tel. 815748
- Romero, tel. 644227
- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Dutch rescue workers check the wreckage of a Belgian Hercules C-130 military transport plane at Eindhoven Airport Tuesday. Thirty-two passengers were killed, including four Belgian crew members, when the plane crashed before landing July 15. Most of the passengers were members of a Dutch military band en route from Villifrancia, Italy to the Melshroek Air Base in Belgium (Reuter photo)

32 killed in Belgian military plane crash

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (R) — The Belgian military aircraft which crashed at Eindhoven in the Netherlands, killing 32 people, was not carrying a "black box" flight recorder, the Belgian chief of staff said Tuesday.

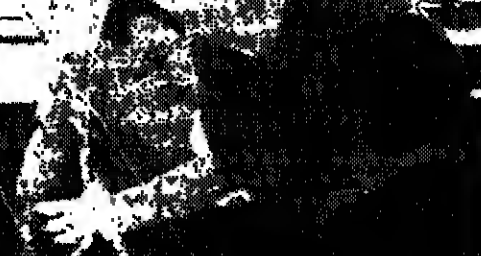
"There are not any real flight recorders on board military aircraft... possibly for strategic reasons taken into account by the manufacturers," Guido Van Hecke told Belgian Radio. "But we have a highly specialised team charged with investigating the cause of the accident."

The 26-year-old C-130 Hercules aircraft ploughed into a field and burst into flames Monday as it tried to land at the military section of Eindhoven Airport in the south of the country.

Apart from those killed, nine people were seriously injured. Most of the casualties were Dutch soldiers.

The plane had been flying from a base near Maastricht, a southeastern suburb of Amsterdam in October 1992, killing at least 43 people.

Dutch newspapers carried front-page photographs of the crippled Hercules lying near the military runway, its fuselage charred, wing-tips smeared off and cockpit missing.



Of the 28 Dutch personnel killed, a number were young conscripts due to end their military service Tuesday, Defence Ministry spokesman Jaapjan Rijlaarsdam said.

"We cannot release exact numbers (of the conscripts) at this stage as all the dead have, not yet been identified," he said. "The families come first."

All nine wounded had been identified, he added.

A Reuters photographer at the scene said one of the nine wounded was said to be in a critical condition.

Major Aart Fokkema, spokesman for the Air Force Information Service, told Reuters families of some of the dead were at the scene.

A memorial service for those who died was planned

sharply as it appeared to abort its landing.

One young boy told Dutch television he saw the plane's wing clip the grass as it flipped over. Another said the plane had been making "weird manoeuvres."

The Belgian Defence Ministry, which routinely cooperates with its Dutch counterpart in transporting personnel, said the crash was the Belgian military's first for 25 years involving a Hercules.

The Dutch government information office said Tuesday Crown Prince Willem Alexander would attend Wednesday's remembrance service on behalf of Queen Beatrix, who Monday expressed her deepest sympathy for relatives of the

**Scores dead, millions
homeless in India floods**

Officials in the Indian tea and oil-rich state of Assam said the fortnight-old flooding had claimed 23 lives there and forced a staggering 1.7 million people from their homes.

swirling waters to temporary camps for the homeless.

Relief efforts were slow, however, because sections of road had been swept away and many highways

Lucid, who heard this weekend that she would be staying in space an additional six weeks because of problems with the U.S. shuttle that was to bring her home, seemed matter-of-

Lucid, who has been on Mir since March, was due to return to Earth in early August but problems with booster rockets strapped to shuttle Atlantis, which was

In northern Bangladesh, meanwhile, the death toll from flooding rose to 15 after six people were drowned or crushed in a house collapse Tuesday.

Rescue workers found 20 bodies under debris in the state's Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri districts, where many villagers had tried to cross swollen rivers in shallow wooden boats.

"There are definitely more bodies under the debris," said a rescue worker.

Food and drinking water shortages were reported in many areas.

Local reports said that in the tea-growing district of Sylhet, which was flooded for the second time in two weeks, almost 300 people had diarrhoea.

The extended stay in the hospital was a relief, said the mother, who said her daughter had been ill since infancy.

significance for her family.

"It means I've been gone from home for an awfully long time," she said. "It's time to come home and start doing the things that I normally do around the house."

The extended stay in the hospital was a relief, said the mother, who said her daughter had been ill since infancy.

girts for her to Kussia. The box will be loaded aboard a Progress supply ship scheduled for launch to the station this month.

"My daughters went out and they bought a few extra books and I also wanted some junk food," she said.

Park closed | N. Ireland

Bulgarian p

separate homeland in the north and east.

"Their very existence is a constant, extremely dangerous source of terrorism, and it is only after it has been removed that we can start talking about a peaceful solution."

resident warns country's

to be shaking a chain, to hold onto power. He should

... ..

Jordan Times

An independent Arab press daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1992

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Diplomacy of engagement

IN WHAT appears to be a necessary and healthy practice that has developed after the Cairo summit last month, Arab countries are holding more meetings to coordinate their policies on the new challenges to the peace process posed by the return of the Likud to power in Israel. The meetings in Cairo yesterday between Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kahariti, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa are a clear manifestation of the Arabs' realisation of the enormity of the challenges and the importance of approaching them with a coordinated stand.

The Arab countries have had different reactions to the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel. But they are in agreement that the peace process must continue with the attainment of comprehensive peace being its final objective. Accordingly, the difference is in the approach, not the objective and hence is the importance of continued dialogue to hammer out any differences between the Arab countries with the view of serving the common interests of all Arab countries directly involved in the peace process.

Jordan and Egypt enjoy the unique position of having peace treaties with Israel and experience in dealing with the Israeli establishment. They also have direct channels with Israel which can be utilised to help other parties that are still in the process of negotiations with the Jewish state. In a few days, Mr Netanyahu will be visiting both Cairo and Amman. Treating the Israeli prime minister to the same argument in the two capitals will definitely have more impact on his policies and approach to the peace process because he will realise that he is dealing with an Arab front that is supportive of its members and clear on their demands.

There is no denying that Mr. Netanyahu's pronouncement on the peace process bespeak extremism that hodes ill for the future of the region as a whole. But the only way to get Mr. Netanyahu to soften his stands is to convince him of the danger inherent in them. That can only be done through sitting with him on the negotiating table and showing him the faultiness of his policies. If Mr. Netanyahu is received in Cairo and Amman, he will hear the Arabs' views on his policies and their answers to them. But if he is not, the talking will be done through television and newspapers. Around the negotiating tables, politicians speak a clear and frank language that is not sensitive to the public opinion and geared towards achieving electoral gains. Through the media, they adopt the maximist positions that usually sell well with the public. Arabs need to talk to Mr. Netanyahu around the negotiating table and to tell him that his policies will bring Israel neither the peace nor the security it seeks. If he listens, it is for the good of all. If he does not, it will be a totally different game and no one can blame the Arabs for aborting the peace process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said the Arab countries should hold yet another summit, as a follow up to the Cairo meeting, in order to come up with ideas to confront the new Israeli government's policies in the occupied Palestinian lands. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Arab countries, which consider the Palestine issue as the crux of the whole Middle East question, must have heard the plans and programmes undertaken by the new Israeli government for the establishment of Jewish settlements and perpetuating Israel's occupation of all of the Palestinian lands. He also said that the Arab countries must have read about Mr. Netanyahu's hardline stance towards the occupied Syrian Heights, his determination to keep that territory under Israel's control and to keep Jerusalem united and the eternal capital of the Jewish state.

AL DUSTOUR daily hailed reports about an imminent meeting in Damascus between King Hussein and President Assad as a very constructive step in the right direction. The paper said that the meeting will be a follow up to the one held in Egypt during the two leaders' attendance of the Cairo Arab summit and would help the two countries to unify their stand towards Israel's policies in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said that such a meeting would not only improve bilateral ties but would also help pave the way for further strengthening relations among Arab countries. The Damascus summit will be timely and coming soon after Israel's declaration of its hostile plans against the Arabs as a whole and amidst serious developments in Palestine, where Israel is holding on to the Arab lands.

Washington Watch

In the aftermath of Netanyahu's U.S. visit

By Dr. James Zogby

NETANYAHU CAME to the U.S., but he did not conquer. He left Washington with very few changes in his wake: his supporters still support him; his opponents heard nothing to ease their concerns; and the sceptics remain quite sceptical.

While some Arab commentators were critical of the Israeli prime minister's White House reception, the meeting was far from a love-fest. The U.S. press coverage is interesting in this regard. One headline commenting on the meeting read: "Face to face, yet far apart," and another: "U.S. and Israeli leaders define differences." Some officials expressed their satisfaction with these headlines and both the State Department and the White House spokesmen went to great lengths during their daily briefing sessions to establish that the U.S. positions on all major issues in the peace process have not changed.

For its part, the Clinton administration used the discussion with the prime minister to lay down several markers it views as integral to maintaining momentum in the peace process. The U.S. expects that agreements reached and commitments made be honoured. It is also concerned that Israel avoid provocations in some flash point areas: Hebron, Jerusalem, settlements and land confiscations.

The administration also made clear its concern that the Israelis lose no time in implementing agreements and in beginning meaningful and substantial discussions with the Palestinian Authority. In public and private the administration defended the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, whom they see as working to comply with the Oslo accords and as central to the peace process.

Also on the Palestinian track, the administration made clear that it hopes to see movement on the economic front, noting industrial parks, check-points and the bridges into Egypt and Jordan as areas where the Israelis can make immediate progress to ease the restrictions on Palestinian commerce.

The Clinton and Netanyahu press conference that followed their private meeting provided some interesting theatre. Netanyahu, addressing his constituency in Israel, was uncompromising on every position. It was clear that while he may make some accommodations upon his return to Israel, they will be on his time and in his way.

The president, according to most press reports, appeared to be both cordial and uncomfortable. While pledging continued support for Israel and keeping with his long-standing political commitment to refrain from any public criticism of Israel, the president's words and behaviour established the fact that there were clear differences between the two leaders. At one point, as Netanyahu discussed settlements, the president grimaced, bringing some laughter from the attending press.

The next day Netanyahu appeared triumphant before Congress. After an embarrassing undiplomatic five-minute ovation, Netanyahu remarked that he could not get an ovation like that from his own Knesset. Here, again, there were fascinating scenes to observe. While Congress stood in wild applause over the prime minister's pledge never to see Jerusalem divided, the Secretary of State Warren Christopher sat in cold and clearly unappreciative silence.

The congressional response was expected. Rabin, during his life, had criticised Likud's efforts to

organise Congress against the peace process. In 1994, Netanyahu sent what Rabin called "the gang of three" — Likud operatives to set up a lobbying effort to mobilise some elements of the Jewish community and especially the Republican leadership in Congress on several issues designed to weaken the peace process (i.e. Jerusalem, aid to the Palestinians and the issue of U.S. troops in the Golan Heights).

In large measures the effects of the "gang of three" were successful and so, in a way, Netanyahu was coming to a "home town" audience that had been prepared for his arrival.

Some Republicans will make an effort to use their relationship with Likud, their support for the Likud agenda, and Netanyahu's victory as issues in the 1996 campaign. Their goal will be to paint the Clinton administration as too soft in its support for Israel, thereby hoping to deny the Democrats the super majority of the Jewish vote they won in the 1992 election.

This was reemphasised during Netanyahu's New York City visit where he was greeted by the Republican governors of New Jersey and New York (whose campaign advisor worked on Netanyahu's campaign), the Republican mayor of New York City and the Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole. After their brief meeting, Dole noted to the press that a Dole administration would be better for Israel, citing his effort on Jerusalem, and the increased support he would give to Israel's missile defence system and greater pressure he would bring to bear on Syria and Iran.

One of the new prime minister's most interesting meetings occurred Wednesday when he appeared before an audi-

ence of Arab diplomats, journalists and community leaders. He began his remarks in a most accommodating tone. But during the question and answer period it became clear that while the tone was softer, the message was vintage hardline: no to land for peace, no to the division of Jerusalem, no to recognition of Palestinian nationalism, and a few other nos along the way.

His two meetings in New York with Jewish leaders and the broader community were equally interesting. A poll released by the Israel Policy Forum this week showed that most American Jews (by a two to one margin) would have voted for Peres, but that with Netanyahu's victory over sixty per cent view him favourably and want to give him a chance. At the same time, their support for the peace process is undiminished and they seem willing to give the new prime minister's "go-it-alone" approach a chance.

The prime minister's meetings with the Jewish community reflected those attitudes. Most were simply "star-struck", an expected reaction. Some die-hard Likud supporters gloated over their victory, while Labour and Peace Now supporters stood by respectfully, but somewhat sceptical and concerned.

The next five months will be dangerous for peace and the people of the Middle East. In the midst of U.S. elections, particularly with the Republicans attempting to create a wedge over support for Israel, the administration will be cautious in charting its course through these new waters. It is clear that the U.S. has sharp policy differences with this new government and is pressing them to avoid provocation. But it is difficult to know what the U.S. reaction will be if provocations occur.

Meanwhile, despite any Arab counter-thrust, Likud is making a determined effort to redefine the U.S. policy debate on several Middle East issues.

Propaganda is what Netanyahu does best and he was in prime form during his visit to Washington. He has long been a master at creating slogans and repeating them often enough that they not only become convincing but agenda-setting ideas.

In the new Likud framework "peace and security" replaces "land for peace". "Reciprocity" means Palestinians must act before Israel acts and Israel alone will determine when Palestinians have acted satisfactorily. "Negotiations with Syria with no preconditions" means that Israel will not leave the Golan, would prefer to see the Syrian regime changed and will insist that Syria remove terrorist groups from Damascus.

In reality those new slogans mean that Israel will not move forward with the peace process. Finally, in an effort to redefine the U.S. agenda, Likud is once again relying on Congress to carry its load. This it will be recalled, is what Shamir attempted to do after the Gulf war — only to be upended by then President Bush. Already there is anti-Syria legislation in the Congress attempting to punish and isolate that government.

It will be a dangerous five months. The prime minister's visit changed no one's opinion and broke no new ground. The markers have been placed and the lines have been drawn. Now will come the real test to see whether or not the peace process can survive in any viable state through November.

Graves, lies and cowardice

By Gwynne Dyer

IMAGINE THE scene. It is early 1945, and allied troops have just overrun the first of the Nazi death camps. It is no longer possible to deny the genocide. So the "Big Three" — Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin — get together and issue a stern warning: "We insist that Hitler step down immediately and permanently from all public functions and take no part in governmental decisions."

You find that a bit short of the mark? Implausible? Completely gutless? Then why did the leaders of the G-7 countries — the U.S., Japan, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Canada — get together in Lyon last month and issued exactly that statement, substituting Hitler's name with that of Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs?

Karadzic and his henchman, General Ratko Mladic, planned and led the Serbian "ethnic cleansing" that killed well over 100,000 innocent Muslim civilians in the parts of Bosnia they intended to include in their Bosnian Serb Republic in 1992-95. Their calculated terrorism drove about 2 million other people to flee their homes.

The United Nations international war-crimes tribunal at The Hague has already indicted both men for genocide, and on

Thursday it will issue international warrants for their arrest. A multi-national team of 290 forensic experts has begun digging up the evidence at one of twelve mass grave sites around Srebrenica, scene of the last big massacre, and eyewitness testimony at The Hague is documenting Mladic's presence at the massacres.

So Mladic and his master, Karadzic, will soon be in jail, right? Wrong. They are still running the Bosnian Serb state today, and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) patrols driving through their "capital", Pale, are under explicit orders not to seek them out. (Their implicit orders are not to recognise them even if they trip over them.)

The political cowardice and moral dysfunction of the NATO governments is exactly the same now as it was on the day, just a year ago, that Srebrenica was overrun. Indeed, it was the direct cause of the Srebrenica tragedy.

Srebrenica was designated as one of six U.N.-protected "safe areas" in 1993, and there were Dutch troops there. But the troops in the safe areas had orders to use force only in response to attacks against them, not against the civilians they were allegedly defending.

Then why bother sending them at all, one might ask? It is

a question that must have occurred to many of the 5,000 Muslim men from Srebrenica who were murdered by the Serbs the following days by being lined up in fields and shot, by having their throats slit or by being herded into buildings into which the Serbs then fired grenades and machine-guns. And the question still arises today.

What is the point of the NATO intervention in Bosnia if it does not remove the authors of the genocide from power and brings them to justice? Don't NATO governments realise that an election carried out in these circumstances will achieve nothing? Don't they realise it will mean the war resumes as soon as NATO pulls out?

Of course they do. They just do not care enough about that to risk the casualties NATO troops might face if they tried to enforce the Dayton accords or the international court's arrest warrants.

Bosnia is still primarily a face-saving operation for the West. And the British government, which sabotaged every attempt to bring about a decisive military intervention and stop the genocide in Bosnia in 1992-95, is still beavering away behind the scenes to ensure that nothing decisive is done to punish the guilty.

But one cannot just blame the

British Foreign Office, however shameful and cowardly its policies are. Other governments have proven more than ready to cop out, too, once the British have blazed a path for them. And why not? After all, nothing bad is going to happen in France or Canada as a result.

And here is why not. It comes in the form of an interview that British journalist Ed Vulliamy had recently with the administrator of Camp Omarska, one of the concentration camps around Prijedor in northern Bosnia where the Serbs tortured, starved, raped and finally murdered thousands of Muslim detainees.

Vulliamy first met Dr. Milan Kovacevic in 1992, when he was the first Western journalist to gain access to the concentration camps. He met Dr. Kovacevic again this February — and this time, the deeply troubled former camp administrator wanted to talk.

"We knew very well what was done at Auschwitz and Dachau, and we knew very well how it started and how it was done," Dr. Kovacevic said. "What we did was not the same as Auschwitz and Dachau, but it was a mistake. It was planned to have a camp for people, not a concentration camp."

"But then it turned into something else. I cannot explain the loss of control. You could call it a collective

madness. If someone acquitted me, saying that I was not a part of that collective madness, then I would have to admit that this was not true. Every man has his good side, and his bad side. Where he is is the important thing."

Exactly. Individual Serbs are no more prone to good or evil than anyone else. The paranoid style of Serbian nationalism, the self-pitying conviction that Serbs are always misunderstood and victimised by everybody else makes them more vulnerable than most other people to manipulation by power-hungry fanatics. But the manipulation still has to be done — deliberately and consciously.

That was what Karadzic and Mladic supplied, and then a generation of Bosnian Serbs were swept up in the savagery. As much as their victims, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It could have happened to other people. It has happened to other peoples. But that is why Karadzic and Mladic must be arrested and tried. Otherwise the cruelty, the contempt for human life and the sense that anything that goes wrong is ratified, not just for Bosnia but elsewhere, will stay on. The war crimes tribunal is not trying to make the world safer for Bosnians. It is working to make it safer for us.

No more smoking

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to draw the attention to a new and dangerous phenomenon that is endangering the health and welfare of our youth who are in the habit of smoking hubble bubble.

Time and time again warning signals were sent regarding pollution and the danger of smoking to the health of the public. Certainly, smoking is a personal thing, but when it endangers the lives of non-smokers then it becomes a public issue.

I only hope that officials would follow up and implement the anti-smoking law in order to preserve the environment and the public health.

It is sad and pathetic to see our youth in coffee shops and restaurants, smoking ages 13 and

above, sitting among the adults and elderly and drinking instead of taking care of their health by practising sports and outside activities.

As for the bubble bubble, it is a traditional custom used by the elderly in the old days when youngsters were not allowed to smoke, as a sign of respect to the elderly. In addition, the custom, when smoking argilla, demands that smoke be not inhaled but puffed only, and not within closed places so that non-smokers would not be affected. Respect is earned by decent behaviour and not by smoking.

The ministry should implement and enforce the smoking and no smoking areas in public places and, hopefully, will ban this habit altogether.

Jordan has a very high percentage of smokers among the youth while smoking among the youth

in Europe has declined due to public awareness.

In some countries smoking is banned completely in all public places and offices. Some international airlines forbid smoking between continents, and recently Delta Airlines refused to fly the Greek Olympic team to the United States for refusing to abide by the no smoking policy.

Sure, public awareness comes gradually, but we must take the first step. Although criticism is expected, perseverance will help in the end to the benefit of the public.

I urge the Ministry of Health to take drastic steps through the news media to show the damaging effects of smoking.

It is about time to draw a line and take serious steps to protect our youth who are our future.

Nasser Mirza,
Amman.

Epicurean Ebeneezers

By Ali Kassay

This time last year, when preparations were under way for the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, I devoted one or two articles to the potential foreign investor who would come to Jordan wide-eyed and uncertain what to expect. My purpose was to equip him with a rough road map outlining the lay of the land, so that he may be better prepared to cope with what awaits him.

Unfortunately, at the time I overlooked one of the most important aspects of doing business in Jordan, that is negotiation timing and tactics. You see, most foreigners come to Jordan with the misguided notion that businessmen negotiate an agreement, sign the contract, and then each party works to fulfil its contractual obligations. This is where they come unstuck. They simply have the order of events all mixed up.

A vital fact to bear in mind is that we in Jordan pride ourselves first and foremost with our sense of hospitality. So, before coming to Jordan, the foreign businessman would be well advised to go on a strict dietary regimen, in preparation for the splendid reception and thorough high-cholesterol forced feeding with which he will be met, and to brush up his repertoire of after-dinner anecdotes. The extension of hospitality overrides all other considerations, even the successful conduct of business. (This stage of the proceedings could go on indefinitely, for politeness forbids us from asking a guest what his business is all about. Invariably, however, there comes a point when the visitor, in the brashness of Western manners, insists on talking shop.)

Once again, the Jordanian code of politeness prevails. The Jordanian host never disagrees with his guest. In fact a discussion hardly ever takes place. The business negotiations seem to consist of a monologue, on one side, and a succession of nods of approval on the other, and a good time is had by all until the contract is signed, the goods or services are delivered, and the invoice is submitted to the Jordanian businessman. Then negotiations start in earnest.

This is one of the unavoidable facts of life. Try as one might to rationalise it, explain it, or reform it, the outcome will be the same. Better simply to be philosophical and accept the situation with a stiff upper lip and a flick of the eyebrows skywards. The fact of the matter is that whether your contract with a Jordanian businessman is worth a penny or a million pounds, the odds are that he will do all within his might to short-change you. In all fairness, it has to be emphasised that this would not be done out of dishonesty, and certainly not out of the tightness of the fist. The same man who would treat you to a thousand-dinar dinner one evening, would wake up the following morning and nab you for anything from fifty fils to a million dinars.

The point at issue is not profit, but the principle of getting away with something. So, next time you have a few millions floating around, consider doing business in Amman. You may not get any richer for it, but you will come out with a good feed, and a considerable stock of smoking-room anecdotes.

By Dipankar De Sarkar

LONDON — A report on the global paper industry — said to be the most comprehensive yet — has appalled a leading British non-governmental organisation for suggesting that the world's current paper needs can easily be met by devoting an area the size of Sweden to pulp wood plantations. The report was prepared by the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and comprises a massive 20 volumes. It looks to address every aspect of the paper industry and account the view of not only the paper industry, but also environmental groups, governments and NGOs.

The WBCSD selected the pulp and paper sector for an in-depth study because of its economic and social significance.

Paper products are used to communicate ideas, inform and instruct and record events and cultural information. They are also acknowledged as playing a crucial role in human health in the form of food packaging, medical dressing and sanitary products. The industry accounts for about 2.5 per cent of the world's industrial production and two per cent of world trade. The total value of world sales in 1994 was about \$260 billion and the industry's total assets are estimated to be worth at least \$400 billion.

Another reason why the report was commissioned, according to its authors, is recent environmental

Arafat snubs Israel

(Continued from page 1)

he said on Israel TV today. "They will not stop peace."

They create settlements — Arafat about the Palestinians — warned Mr. Peres, whose government largely shied construction of Jewish settlements.

Palestinians view the 140,000 Jewish settlers living among about 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an obstacle to any peace accord. The fate of the settlements has been left for negotiations over a permanent agreement, along with the future of Jerusalem.

Mr. Peres said if he had been reelected he would have completed Israel's pullout from Hebron and pushed ahead on final status talks with the Palestinians.

The 72-year-old Nobel laureate also criticised the new government for failing to take steps towards peace talks with Syria.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he will not cede the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967, unwillingness for an understanding in exchange for peace.

"I am worried about what will happen to Israel in the next four years," Mr. Peres said, noting that over the years Jews had failed to shed signs of impending danger.

He said a nation that doesn't know how to read historical events: We didn't know what Hitler was on. We didn't know Stalin was on time."

Now there is the issue of nuclear weapons," he stressed, stressing that Israel needed a united front with Arab states to fight the growing stream of Islamic fundamentalist militants.

Features

Paper in the news

By Dipankar De Sarkar

LONDON — A report on the global paper industry — said to be the most comprehensive yet — has appalled a leading British non-governmental organisation for suggesting that the world's current paper needs can easily be met and managed by devoting an area the size of Sweden to pulp wood plantations.

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Another reason why the report was commissioned, according to its authors, is recent environmental

pressure on the pulp and paper sector. NGOs are worried about several aspects of the industry, including the high levels of paper consumption in rich countries, replacement of natural forests by plantations, loss of biodiversity and the use of the environmentally harmful chlorine gas as a bleaching agent.

Paper use has always been a subject of controversy. With global paper consumption increasing steadily and expected to continue doing so, there is a strong view that the rise in demand will lead to further denudation of scarce forestry resources because of exploitative practices followed by many paper manufacturers.

However, the industry says it is increasingly mindful of environmental concerns and is improving its practices and improving technology. It says that as the industry expands, it creates more jobs and wealth.

A third crucial point of view focuses on the North-South aspect of paper consumption. More than 80 per cent of the world's population — mostly in developing countries — does not have access to enough paper needed for even reading and writing. As a result, there is a felt need to eliminate the imbalance caused by wasteful paper use in rich countries.

Contravertually, the report sets out to explode what it calls "paper and environment myths" in its efforts to chalk out a sustainable future for the paper industry. It says only one per cent of the global paper consumption is sourced from tropical rainforests; that recycling

is not always the best way to deal with paper waste; and that the world is not running out of wood to produce paper.

"In theory, the world's current demand for wood fibre for pulp could be supplied by an industrial plantation area of 40 million hectares or roughly the size of Paraguay or Sweden," the report says.

"This area is less than four times that taken up by high-yielding plantations that exist now."

The finding — and its underlying assumption that the world demand for paper can be met without tackling the problem of overconsumption — "horrified" the London-based campaigning NGO, Friends of the Earth.

If the report's proposal to establish a 40 million-hectare industrial plantation were to be implemented, Friends of the Earth said, it would have a serious environmental impact. "High-yielding pulp plantations are extremely low in biodiversity and very poor habitats for wildlife. In Sweden, for example, where 95 per cent of the original forest has been converted to intensively managed forests or plantations, 1,487 forest-dwelling species are listed as endangered," said Sarah Tyack of Friends of the Earth.

She said the report fails to identify where the new plantations would be established but states that many would have to be in the tropics or semi-tropics.

"As well as implications for biodiversity, plantations in these regions often have social problems, depriving local communities of their land,



Forests like this can easily disappear if judicious deforestation does not take place. A recent report suggests that the world's current paper needs can be met and managed by devoting an area the size of Sweden to pulp wood plantations (file photo)

and may even be established at the expense of natural forest," Ms. Tyack said.

The crucial issue for developing countries, however, remains the North-South imbalance in paper consumption. The report acknowledges that paper has become "a highly symbolic product, for

some, demonstrating the North's 'excessive' consumption of the world's natural resources."

Though consumption is growing faster in developing countries, the average consumption of paper in poorer nations remains meagre — the average person in developed countries consumes 152 kilo-

grammes of paper per year, compared to only 12 kilograms in developing countries.

Developed countries account for about 75 per cent of total paper consumption but their rate of increase in consumption is declining. However, the report's findings on the North-South issue are

seen as weak — it lists NGO concerns and says governments in the North are increasingly looking at the "consumption phase" of paper. The paper industry, it adds, has "continued to reduce the amount of paper used in products and packaging, which has led to higher efficiencies."

But Friends of the Earth are not convinced. Said Ms. Tyack: "The forest resources are mostly in the South and they have to feed the demand in the North. The report fails to broach this issue."

Panos

Arafat snubs Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Peres said on Israel TV Monday. "They will not bring peace."

"If you create settlements... forget about the Palestinians," warned Mr. Peres, whose government largely froze construction of Jewish settlements.

Palestinians view the 140,000 Jewish settlers living among about 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an obstacle to any peace accord. The fate of the settlements has been left for negotiations over a permanent agreement, along with the future of Jerusalem.

Mr. Peres said if he had been reelected he would have completed Israel's pullout from Hebron and pushed ahead on final status talks with the Palestinians.

The 72-year-old Nobel laureate also criticised the new government for failing to take steps towards resuming talks with Syria.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he will not cede the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967, a step back from Mr. Peres' willingness for an undefined pullout in exchange for peace.

"I am worried about what will happen to Israel in the next four years," Mr. Peres said, noting that over the years Jews had failed to read signs of impending disaster.

"We are a nation that doesn't know how to read historical events: We didn't know what Hitler was on time... We didn't know what Stalin was on time," Mr. Peres said.

"Now there is the issue of fundamentalists with nuclear weapons," he added, stressing that Israel needed a united front with the Arab states to fight the growing stream of Islamic fundamentalist militants

Battle rages for Surinam's virgin forests

By Paul Hughes
Reuters

PARAMARIBO, Surinam — Should this tiny South American country sell large tracts of pristine rainforest to Asian logging companies? Not if environmentalists have anything to say about it.

Ninety per cent of Surinam's 163,800 square km land surface is virgin forest. That is nine times the size of Costa Rica's rainforest. But Surinam's government entered what environmentalists saw as a pact with the devil in March 1994 when it signed preliminary agreements with three Asian companies to turn over about one-fifth of the former Dutch colony for 25 year concessions.

Two years later, the final contracts have still not been signed. "We are still in the middle of the fight, the battle is not over," said Niko Waagmeester, who heads Foundation for a clean Surinam, a leading group opposing the development.

The debate has raised awareness in a country that has long neglected its Amazon jungle interior. "People are starting to realise that we have something precious," said Jan van Ewijk, an adviser for human rights group Mojwana '86.

Although the logging deals would be the largest foreign investment in Surinam since U.S. capital founded the bauxite industry 80 years ago, the logging companies have not helped their own cause.

Surinam law forbids any one company from owning a concession larger than 150,000 hectares. To get around this rule Indonesian loggers Mitra Usaha Sejati Abadi (MUSA) set up 65 front companies headed by local residents, each of which applied for a maximum concession. But the rule was quickly discovered and the applications denied.

Working its own concession, MUSA quickly fell

foul of allegations that it was logging prohibited species, using imported labour and working outside its concession limits.

Surinam and Indonesia share historical links. Both are former Dutch colonies and nearly 20 per cent of Surinam's 420,000 population are descended from rice farmers brought from Java in the nineteenth century. But for many locals, MUSA's behaviour came as little surprise.

"Why should these companies act any different in Surinam than they have in other countries?" Mr. van Ewijk asked.

The had press also rubbed off on other Asian loggers, many of them looking for a foothold in Surinam.

"If someone else behaves badly, it hurts us because people say 'why should you be different, you come from the same area?'" said Surindra Mungra, managing director of Berjaya Timber Industries Surinam Nv.

Berjaya group, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, also signed a preliminary agreement for a 1.15 million hectare logging concession in 1994. Unlike MUSA, Berjaya has no concessions in Surinam at present and is doing its best to show that it will log responsibly.

Indeed, Mr. Mungra argued that large concession holders like Berjaya are more respectful of the environment than small loggers. "Small concession holders just cut and run. They stay for about four years and then go. But we are talking about a 25-year concession. Which we would cut selectively," he said.

Berjaya would process its wood in Surinam rather than export uncut logs and has pledged to stay clear of environmentally sensitive regions. But environmentalists are still worried. A commercial forest belt stretching across the central part of Surinam has been logged successfully for

more than a century. The flat, fertile land in this region is ideal for commercial logging activities and "although it is no longer virgin forest, it is sustainable," Mr. Waagmeester said.

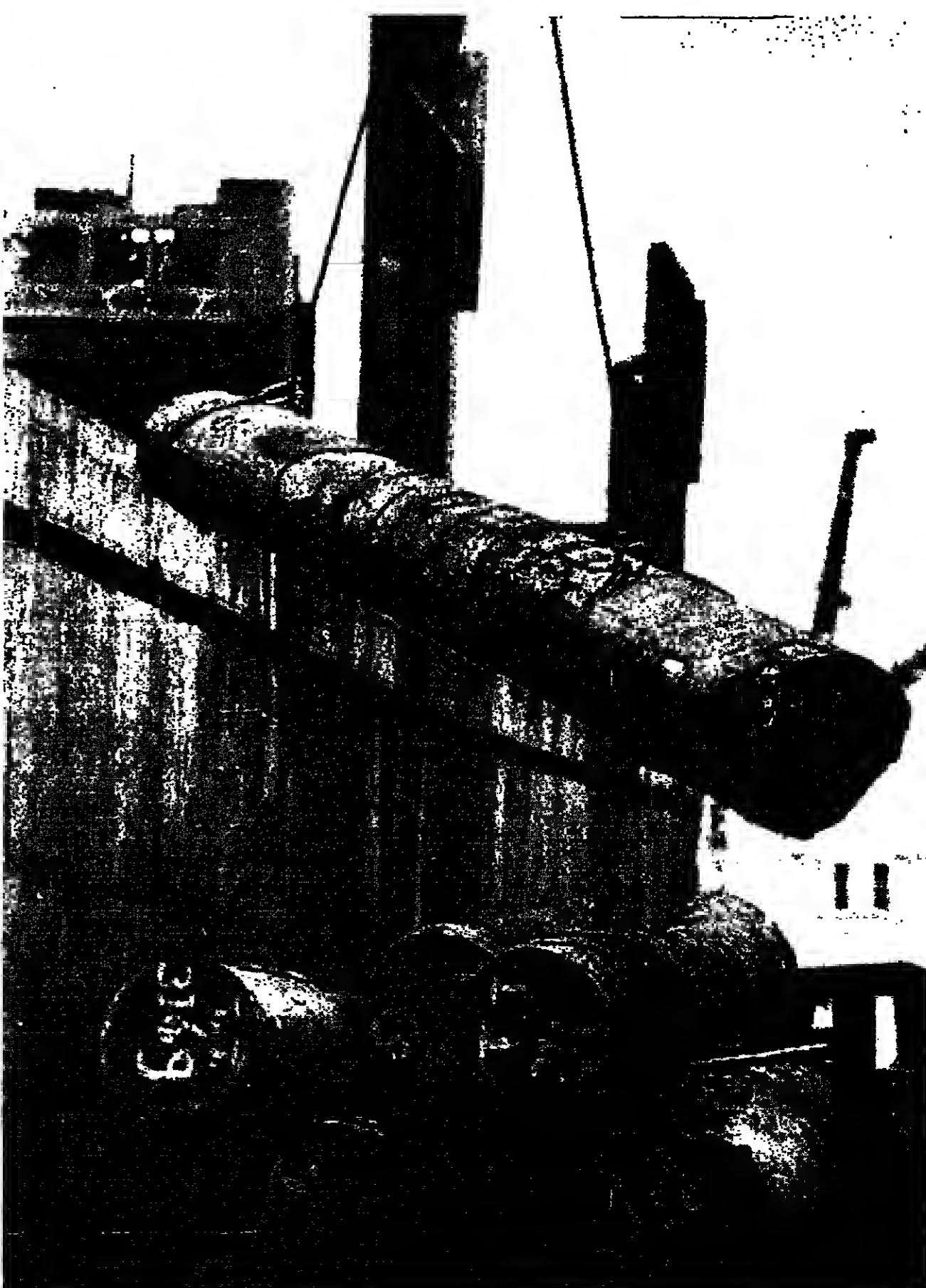
The foreign loggers want to work the southern highlands beyond the forest belt. "Beyond the belt the soil is very poor so if you start harvesting you get erosion," he said.

Logging companies like Berjaya charge environmentalists with reinforcing the underdevelopment of Surinam's interior and turning aside useful foreign exchange revenues. Once prosperous thanks to its small population and aid from the Netherlands, Surinam has fallen on hard times in recent years. Civil war and military dictatorship tore the country apart in the 1980s and the average wage is now a meagre \$150 per month.

"Surinam is not getting much out of its hush," Mr. Mungra said. The government earned a paltry \$715 from logging duties in 1995.

A trunk of a big tree is loaded onto a barge at the Paramaribo river port in the Surinamese capital of Paramaribo.

Environmentalists have lodged strong objections to the logging and the government's plans to let Asian logging companies buy huge 20-year concessions in its extensive interior rainforests. (Reuters photo)



Wealth and growth: The gap widens throughout the world

PARIS (AFP) — The gap between the world's rich and poor has widened so much that the 358 richest people own more than the combined annual incomes of nearly half the globe's population, a U.N. agency says.

"The world has become more economically polarised," said the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its annual report on human development slated for official release Wednesday.

If nothing is done, at this rate the annual income of the poorest in 2030 will amount to \$325 per capita while income in industri-

alised countries will reach some \$40,000.

The report shows that the gap between the income of industrialised countries and that of developing countries has tripled between 1960 and 1993, widening from \$5,700 to \$15,400.

This is despite impressive world economic growth. In the last 30 years, the world's gross domestic product (GDP) has expanded from \$4 trillion to \$23 trillion (in 1993) and the average per capita income has tripled.

However, since 1980, many countries have stayed on the sidelines of

economic expansion, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Europe, and Arab countries affected by the drop in oil prices. All together, the UNDP report identifies some 100 countries that have experienced economic decline or stagnation.

The result has been disastrous inequalities in wealth distribution. Over the last 30 years, the share of income for the poorest 20 per cent of the planet's population fell from 2.3 per cent to 1.4 per cent of world income. At the same time, the share of the richest 20 per cent grew from 70 per cent to 85 per cent.

Perhaps more worrying, the UNDP records a progression in the number of poor whose income has diminished from year to year. Between 1965 and 1980, the U.N. agency counted 200 million people for whom income had gone down; between 1980 and 1993, more than one billion people saw their incomes fall, the report says.

In the 70 countries whose economies are stagnant or in decline, average incomes are today lower than in 1980. In 43 cases, they are below 1970 levels.

In the period 1990-1993 alone, the average income fell by at least one-fifth in 21 countries, mostly in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Even within many developing countries the gaps in income are growing. In Guatemala, Panama and Brazil, the rich earn 30 times more than the poor. The problem is most acute in Latin America, but some improvement has been made in Asia, particularly among the "tigers" — Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea — "where wealth distribution is now more equal," the report said.

The U.N. agency called for new efforts from the world's richest countries to

alleviate the debt of the poorest nations. However, the appeal has already received a lukewarm response at the Group of Seven summit of the seven richest nations in Lyon at the end of June.

The UNDP has also suggested reforms in development aid, which has been steadily reduced in recent years, and better access to export markets, which the report suggests could take the form of granting trade preferences. It also calls for the benefits of economic growth to be invested in human development, particularly health and education.

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Canadian growth to pick up next year — OECD

PARIS (AFP) — Following a period of sluggish growth, Canada's economic recovery is gathering momentum, and gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to rise from 2.1 per cent this year to 3.4 per cent in 1997, the OECD has said.

Growth is projected to average 3.5 per cent over the next 18 months, the organisation said in its Economic Outlook, attributing the development to the revival in U.S. demand and a pickup in interest rate-sensitive spending at home.

"Given the low starting point, economic growth this year is likely to remain modest at just over two per cent," the report said.

"In 1997, however, real GDP should again grow more than productive capacity, which is estimated to be expanding at just over 2.5 per cent per annum."

The projections assume "continued solid growth in the United States and an increasing positive demand impact of the monetary easing that has taken place over the past year."

Export volumes, which

expanded at double-digit rates last year, are expected to continue to grow thanks to improvements in Canada's competitive position in recent years.

"Lower interest rates and substantial pent-up demand are expected to stimulate household spending on durables and housing," the OECD said.

"Business investment should be underpinned by favourable corporate profitability, improved demand prospects and a renewed rise in capacity utilisation," the report said.

The unemployment rate is projected to fall from 9.5 per cent in 1995 to 9.3 per cent this year and 9.0 per cent in 1997.

Inflation is projected to remain within the lower half of the one to three per cent target band.

But, the report concludes, "the currently benign environment could also change for the worse if renewed political uncertainties, or doubts about the government's resolve to tackle fiscal problems, were to trigger financial market concerns."

Israeli shares continue sliding

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli shares took another deep plunge Tuesday to bring their overall fall to more than 20 per cent in the seven weeks since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's election.

The benchmark Mishtan-100 index closed down 4.48 per cent, confirming the predictions of traders and businessmen that the announcement of planned Bank Of Israel intervention to support government bonds would fail to save the day.

The treasury had said early in the day that the Bank of Israel would buy the bonds when necessary to stabilise the bond market and indirectly calm the stock market.

That decision — and another to set up a committee to study further market reforms — were taken following an all-night meeting between Mr. Netanyahu, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

Benjamin Gaon, chairman of Koor Industries,

Israel's largest holding company, told Reuters at an economic conference in Caesarea that the government measures were not enough. "For the last three years we signalled to the world that there is a certainty to Israel's economy. We do feel (now) that we have a certain cloud of uncertainty. This is the enemy of any economic move," he said.

Treasury officials said the measures were meant to stop the general panic in the capital markets, including a wave of redemptions in the provident funds, and indirectly restore investor confidence in the stock market.

The redemptions in the provident funds, which are long-term saving plans for workers, had caused a decline in both bond and stock prices. Provident funds are major players in

the stock market.

"In the long run the fact that the Bank of Israel will buy bonds to support their prices won't affect the (stock) market. What we need is a cut in interest rates," said Dan Scharia of Capital Investments.

"The government decision to provide a safety net for the bond prices will help the bond market in the short term, but in the long term the government will have to deal with problems with long-term saving plans, namely provident funds and pension funds," said Jonathan Katz of Capital Holdings.

The Israeli stock market has suffered from a crisis of confidence since 1994 when the government of then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin tried unsuccessfully to tax capital gains.

ASEAN draws up more aggressive plans to woo foreign funds

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — South East Asian countries have agreed here to woo foreign funds by liberalising investment rules and working closely together, a Malaysian official said.

The heads of state-owned investment agencies within the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to set up a meeting of senior officials to draw up an action plan, he said.

"The senior officials will assist the heads on developing meaningful and practical measures in the areas of investment cooperation and promotion," Zainal Abidin, chairman of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, told a media

conference. The ASEAN investment chiefs said the senior officials would draw up a report to be presented for approval by ASEAN finance ministers in Jakarta in September.

ASEAN officials have voiced concern over the drop in the regional grouping's share of total foreign direct investment to Asia from 62 per cent to 31 per cent between 1991 and 1994.

Finance ministers of ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, in April drew up a regional initiative on investment called the ASEAN Invest-

ment Area. The investment chiefs said they would investigate ways of improving regional investment cooperation, promotion and intra-ASEAN investment to boost the ASEAN Investment Area scheme.

Mr. Zainal told media the senior ASEAN officials would also look into joint promotions to attract foreign direct investment in hi-tech industry.

Other areas would include greater transparency of the regional grouping's investment rules, joint training programmes for ASEAN investment officials and greater cooperation on the exchange of investment data.

The investment chiefs supported revisions to a 1987 ASEAN pact on promotion and investment protection, saying these changes would be adopted in the form of a protocol by the economic ministers in September.

Benjamin Gaon, chairman of Koor Industries,

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia Yates

ACROSS

- Bankers
- Rate or time
- Gouda's cousin
- Monster
- Let go
- Jason's craft
- Snap
- Soft
- Golf's bane
- Wile E.
- Heavy mallet
- Strong-arms
- "This — recording"
- Geek, e.g.
- God of old Memphis
- Sideline
- Gallantry
- "Leave — Beaver"
- Tribunal of prelates
- Puts away
- Stuck last
- Cupola
- "Swinging — Star"
- Some stert
- President Arthur
- Anglo-Saxon laborer
- Harvesting
- "You don't say!"
- "The Gloomy Dean"
- Snap
- Threshold
- "If — Would Leave You"
- Matures
- What old paint does
- Took out
- Parched

DOWN

- "How — the little busy bee..."
- Begum's spouse
- Parm's aftermath, often var.
- Mid-morning
- Come up with
- Classic car
- Kind
- Merry month, in Paree
- Carry out
- Came forward
- Be overly eager
- Marble
- Broods
- Collision
- Glacial ridges
- Put a — on (curb)
- Speed meas.
- Wading bird
- Clockmaker
- Thomas
- Chip in a chip
- Snap
- Smidgen
- Constructed
- Straw item?
- Came forward
- Sunday talk: abbr.
- Fish eggs
- Blah
- Game show
- White
- Skating great
- Two under par
- Best-and Ferber
- Advantage
- The Ohre River, to some
- Helping
- A Gabor
- Asian holiday
- Dent or vent ending

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAALC
NORPE
DRAUMA
TRUIPY

WHAT THE KING CONSIDERED HIS TOOTHACHE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: SOUSE TRACT HERESY FASTEN
Answer: Why he said axotic birds — TO FEATHER HIS NEST

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to express your finest talent better today so that it becomes more profitable and get the support of a bigwig. Later this evening you can spend some time with some knowledgeable person for assistance on some project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Study how you can improve your home affairs today and make that point of your focus at this time. Confer with an expert in this and you will see that harmony reigns in your household and there will be much affection by your mate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study some new course of action today which will prepare you to have greater success in the days ahead. A close friend can be of great assistance if you are willing to disclose to this individual all of the necessary facts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Finances are important to you today, so plan just how to increase your bank account so that you can have the fine things. Later tonight you can consult with some fellow associate and make plans for much prosperity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study your ambitions well today and then contact those who can assist you in the most to attain them. You have staunch supporters in your loved ones and they will back you on any decision which you make.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a fine day today to see your advisors, or sit in the privacy of your study and figure out how best to gain your ambitions for the days-ahead. This evening will be good for going out on the town with your loved ones and have fun.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your personal goals clear in your mind for the days ahead and plan how best you can attain them. Socialise this evening with close friends and fellow associates and you can have fun and make some success at the same time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are not certain how the days ahead will trend, so discuss this with a bigwig who can shed light on the subject and be able to make your success a reality for you and your loved ones to enjoy for some time to come.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you think big today and use more modern methods of operation, you can accomplish a great deal at this time. Plan a trip with your loved ones and you will have a good time if you spend some quality time together.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study how far you have advanced in business today and then seek for new knowledge so that you can add to this. Later this evening you can have a good time with your close friends while out on the town.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to contact bigwigs today who are conservative and get good advice which will be very helpful to you. Later tonight will be good for you to complete some new project with the knowledge obtained through much discussion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have fine ideas for making changes in your environment today which will improve its comfort and efficiency, so put them in operation for the days ahead. This evening you can start at home with your loved ones and have fun.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Kuwait stock

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwait Stock Exchange as trading records are set every week, but analysts say the bourse must open to foreign investors to join the ranks of the world's emerging markets.

"I would love to see the Kuwait market open to foreign investors," said Rader Al-Sagoff, portfolio manager at head of Al Oula financial brokerage company.

Local fund managers and others in the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) from time to time have been invited to join the ranks of the world's emerging markets.

One of the leading U.S. investment banks, Merrill Lynch, is considering plans to launch a local equity fund which would be open to foreign investors.

The interest has been expressed by KSE's record performance in the past 18 months. The leading share index has risen more than 50 per cent and trading volume has rocketed to unprecedented levels.

The value of shares traded in 1995 was \$94 million, up from \$52 million in 1994. The figure had risen to \$1.4 billion in 1995, and a strong first half trade is well on the way to pushing three billion dinars in 1996.

The turnaround is due to renewed confidence of investors in their local market. Foreign investors are now able to buy shares in the bourse.

The other stock markets in the Gulf States, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, have been mostly closed to foreign investors.

Members from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — which alongside

Romanian banks fail

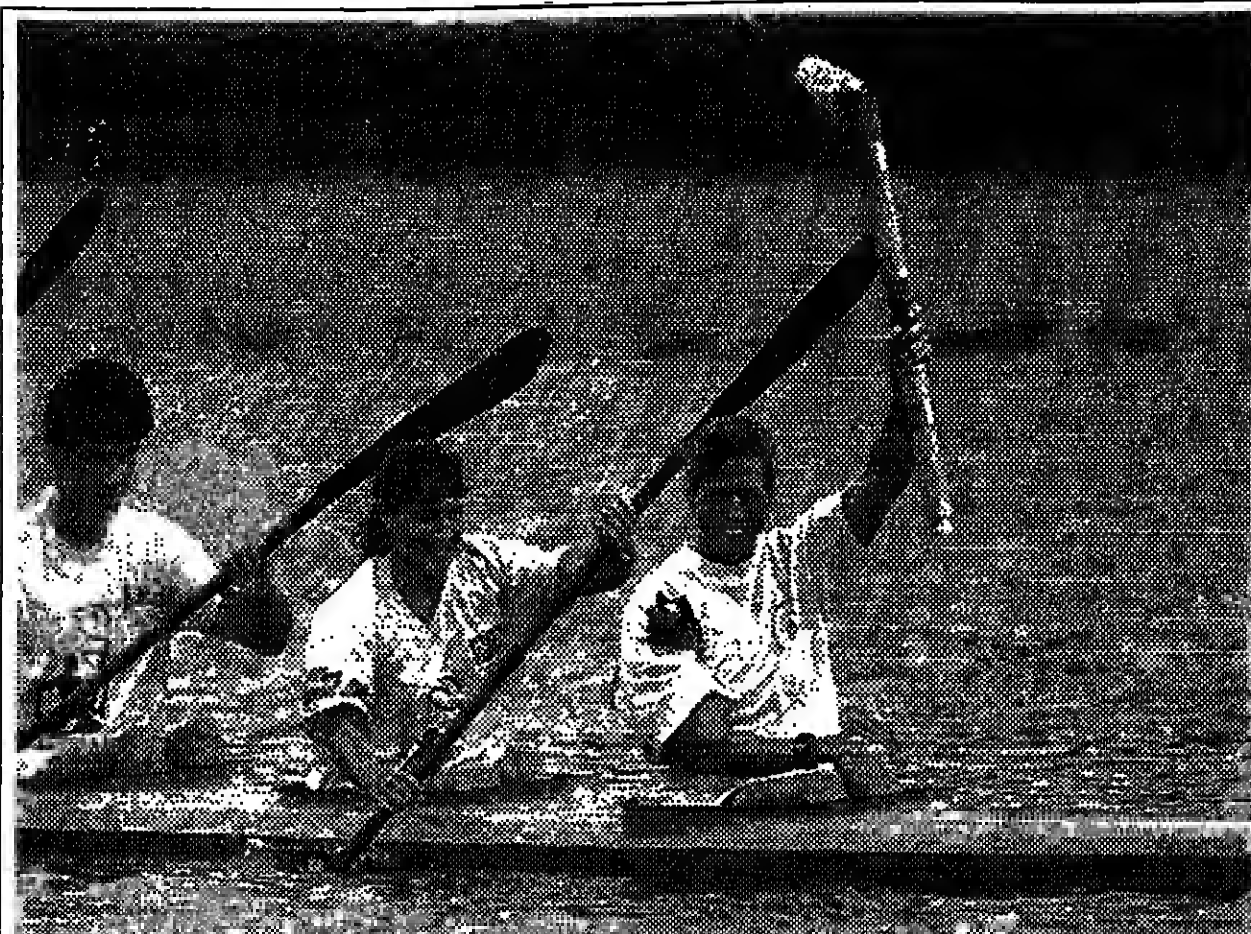
BUCHAREST (AFP) — The private Romanian banks Banca Felix and Credit Int. will be forced into liquidation after registering losses of about \$1 billion, a governor of Romania's National Bank has said. Victor Ionescu said it will be the first such incident in Romania, which has been struggling to implement post-communist free-market reforms. "We have decided to stop all financial support to these two banks and let them decide their fate," said Mr. Ionescu. The move could trigger panic among customers coming on to the banks after another financial crisis involving several mutual funds.

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DeAnne Hemmens of the U.S. Olympic team holds up the Olympic torch as it crosses the rowing and canoe/kayak competitions venue at Lake Lanier July 15. Also in the K-4 kayak are athletes Philippe Bocarra of France (left) and Alexandra Harbold (centre) of the U.S. Hemmens exchanged the torch with a rowing crew of eight before continuing on to its eventual destination at the opening ceremonies in Atlanta on July 19 (Reuters photo)

Drugs test darkens Olympic build-up

ATLANTA (R) — A positive drugs test involving leading Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco cast the first doping shadow across the Atlanta Olympics on Monday.

Australian team chief John Coates said Capobianco, fifth in the 200 metres at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, had tested positive for steroids during an examination in Europe.

The sprinter was reported to have used the steroid stanozolol, the substance taken by Ben Johnson at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Capobianco, who has been training with the Australian team in Raleigh, North Carolina, now faces a four-year ban. He has

denied the charge and has appointed lawyers to contest his innocence.

Despite increased testing programmes, it is clear from the constant number of doping cases that athletes are still prepared to try to cheat their way to the medals which guarantee big pay days on the Grand Prix circuit.

While athletics Australia, the country's track and field governing body, refused to confirm that Capobianco had tested positive until a hearing about the case had taken place, chief Neil King said the case might be a major blow to athletics.

"If it turns out to be a positive case it would be devastating for the sport," King said. "If any athlete tests

positive (for steroids) he deserves to be banned for four years."

It is a particularly embarrassing blow to Australia who are due to hold the next summer games in Sydney. The country's reputation was recently hit by a much-publicised doping scandal involving swimmer Samantha Riley.

Riley received a severe caution from swimming's governing body FINA after the world champion recorded a positive test in Rio de Janeiro last year.

At the weekend, Australian officials in Atlanta warned their team that they could expect no sympathy if they tested positive for even the mildest of banned substances during

the Olympics.

International Olympic committee officials hope that a new system of testing here will help them catch more cheats. But it is widely known that athletes are good at timing when they take banned drugs to make sure they are not caught during competition.

The sport clearly still has a major fight on its hand to stamp out the abuse of drugs.

As one leading doping expert said recently: "I am often asked if I know of a sport where doping does not play a role. I used to say it was chess. But now, I'm not so sure."

'Atlanta police sweep homeless off streets'

ATLANTA (R) — Almost 10,000 people have been arrested during the past year in a campaign by Atlanta officials to harass the homeless and sweep them off city streets before the Olympic Games, a homeless support group said Monday.

The task force for the homeless said Atlanta police had arrested 9,500 people on charges like walking through parking lots, sitting on curbs, asking for money, and sleeping in public. Others had been harassed in other ways, said executive director Anita Beatty.

"Many of the homeless are going to be in jail until the Olympics are over," said Joe Beasley, regional director of the Rainbow Coalition. The city is trying to tell the world "all is well," he

said.

Atlanta officials were not immediately available to comment on the latest charges but earlier this year police denied there was any campaign to sweep away the homeless before the Games.

Frederick Lamar, who had a job building Olympics housing, said he spent a weekend in jail after four police officers strip-searched him in the street and charged him with blocking the sidewalk. "I only weigh about 160 pounds (73 kg), I couldn't see it," Lamar said.

According to conservative estimates, the Atlanta metropolitan area has about 55,000 homeless — almost 21,000 of them in the city itself. But there are only 2,386 bed spaces for

them in the city, Beatty said.

There are no shelters where the homeless can stay during the day, even if they work at night.

Women and children make up the majority of homeless at a time when the city is losing 5,000 units of public housing because of Olympics-related activity, the task force said.

The Atlanta union mission built a 100-bed addition to meet the growing demand, but those rooms have been leased by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games to house journalists.

Officials were embarrassed earlier this year when it was revealed that authorities had given homeless people free one-way bus tickets out of town if they promised not to come back.

COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA

Drechsler gives up Olympic battle

IENA, Germany (AFP) — Olympic champion Heike Drechsler announced Monday that she had given up her battle to compete at the Atlanta Games.

Drechsler, the 1992 long jump gold medalist, revealed she had not recovered from a knee tendon injury. "I don't compete if I am not 100 per cent, and I could just make things worse," she said.

The 31-year-old, who was also expected to mount a challenge for the Olympic heptathlon title after competing in the event at the top level for the first time last year, picked up the injury in May.

Drechsler made her name as a sprinter and long jumper competing for the former East Germany.

She launched her career at the Helsinki world championships by taking the long jump as an 18-year-old to become the youngest-ever title holder. She retained that title 10 years later at Stuttgart.

Drechsler's absence is a major blow to German Olympic hopes.

The team has already lost women's high jump champion Heike Henkel, who failed to qualify.

Atlanta hot and thundery as Games loom

ATLANTA (R) — Thunderstorms swept Atlanta Monday and weather forecasters said that conditions were likely to remain hot and steamy ahead of Friday's opening of the Olympics.

The storms added to the congestion on the roads around the Georgian city but had the advantage of dampening down the heat, with afternoon temperatures peaking at around 32 degrees Celsius.

The opening ceremony takes place Friday evening and competition begins Saturday.

Athletes and coaches have voiced fears about the effects of the searing summer heat on competitors. Temperatures soared as high as 44C on the athletics track during the recent U.S. Olympic trials.

Eritrea make late Games bid

ATLANTA (R) — The east African nation of Eritrea, the only United Nations member outside the Olympic movement, made a last-minute appeal Monday to join the rest of the world at the Atlanta Games.

But the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said the impoverished country, which became the 182nd U.N. member in 1993 after gaining independence from Ethiopia, did not fulfil the bureaucratic requirements of entry.

Atlanta was hoping to become the first host to welcome the entire world to the Games, and all 197 IOC members accepted an invitation to come. But non-member Eritrea's exclusion leaves Atlanta one short of its desire for a perfect record.

With just four days to go before the games open, supporters of Eritrea's bid said two cyclists and the secretary-general of the Eritrean National Olympic Committee (ENOC) were ready, willing and able to fly to Atlanta.

"The International Olympic Committee never said to them until this month that they could not join the Games," said Tatsuya Yoshioka, a Japanese supporter of the Eritrean bid.

Yoshioka, who works for a Tokyo-based group which supplies aid to Eritrea, said the two Olympic hopefuls had been training in Japan and awaiting the call to Atlanta.

"But the ENOC has not been recognised yet by the IOC. For this reason the U.S. State Department cannot provide them with a visa," he said.

"Over the last 30 years Eritrea was at war and it did not have time to take part in sport. It is very important for them to take part in the Olympics," he said.

Enoc has fallen foul of the IOC's rules. It has failed to have five of its national sports federations recognised at international level, a minimum requirement for IOC membership under the Olympic charter.

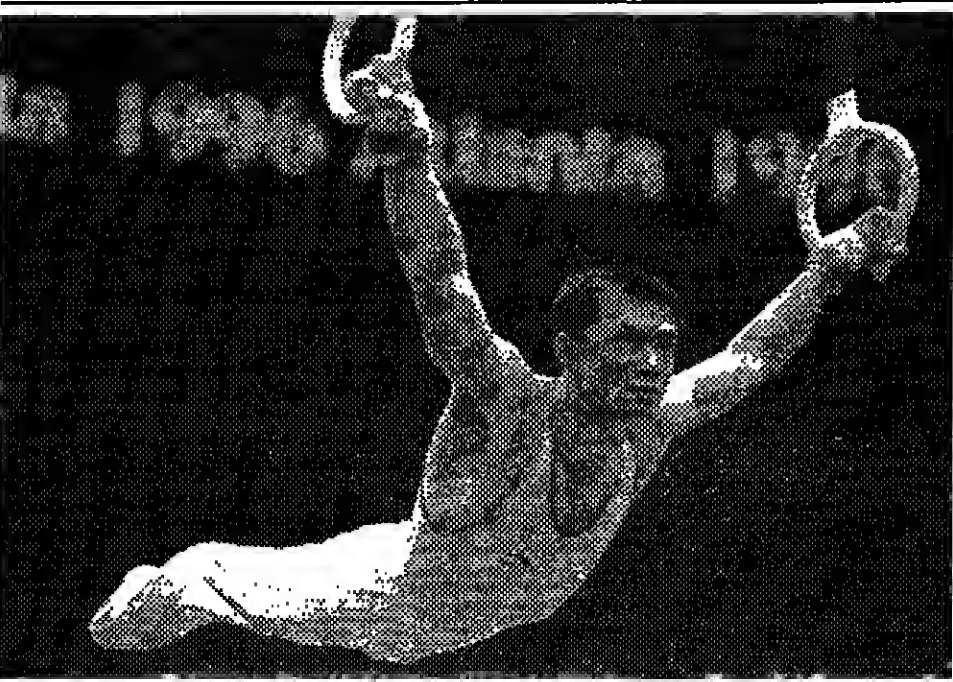
Only cycling, Eritrea's most popular sport, is affiliated with the international cycling union.

Four other sports — volleyball, soccer, athletics and basketball — were organised at a national level but were still awaiting international recognition, Yoshioka said.

IOC officials were sympathetic, but said there was little that could be done.

"The requirements under the Olympic charter for recognition were not fulfilled," said IOC Secretary-General Francois Carrard. He said the IOC was prepared to move quickly in these cases, but he said it was "late, it is very late."

Yoshioka said the Eritreans had not given up hope and had nominated him to negotiate with the IOC and the Atlanta organisers until the last minute.



Chinese world champion gymnast Li Xiaoshuang works out on the rings during training for the Atlanta Olympics, July 15 at Atlanta's Georgia Dome (Reuters photo)

Games cash in on gymnastics training

ATLANTA (R) —

Gymnastics training is usually conducted behind closed doors but at the Atlanta Olympics spectators can watch — for a price.

For the first time at a major championships, tickets were sold at the Georgia Dome for Monday's practice session.

More than 9,000 bought seats priced at \$22 and \$11

for the men's compulsory routines.

An advance sale of 21,700 tickets had been made for Tuesday's workout by the women, rising to 30,000 for their routines the following day.

Not surprisingly, the biggest cheers Monday were lavished on the U.S. men's team. "For me it was a great feeling. It gave us a little taste

of what it will be like in the real competition," said American team member John Macready.

U.S. joint captain Jair Lynch said his teammates were in for a bigger surprise. "Nothing is going to prepare us for the 40,000 screaming folks that will be here on Saturday," he said of the opening day of Olympic competition.

Olympic Games diary

ATLANTA (AFP) — Villagers relax at massage spa the most popular spot in the Olympic village. home to 15,000 athletes, officials and coaches during the Games, is the full body massage spa. Stressed-out competitors can wind down with a "stress-buster massage," an "aromatherapy body wrap," or a "body salt glow" skin treatment. The centre is already fully booked four days ahead. "The surprise is that more men than women are coming in," said spa manager Cici Coffee.

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IOC laughs off British doping allegations

ATLANTA (R) — The head of the Olympic anti-doping programme on Monday laughed off a British team doctor's allegation that 75 per cent of athletes use drugs and said people were getting too suspicious of sporting feats.

"Let me just laugh slowly," Belgium's Prince Alexandre de Merode told a news conference when asked about the charge by British doctor Michael Turner that Atlanta Games testing procedures were a "cosmetic arrangement."

In a television programme to be broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Tuesday night, Turner says he reckons three out of four

athletics competitors have used banned drugs during training.

"If you're talking about track and field, you're talking about a situation where the percentage may be 75 or above of Olympic athletes in Atlanta (who) will have taken some kind of performance-enhancing drug," Turner told the BBC.

Turner, who is to join the British team in Atlanta, also says the high-tech testing machinery to be used — including the much-heralded high-resolution mass spectrometer — is no use against drugs such as testosterone, human growth hormone and the blood oxygen-booster EPO.

"Testing urine in competi-

tion is by and large a waste of time. People are using growth hormone, they're using blood doping, both of which are undetectable in competition urine testing," Turner said.

"Athletes who cheat are using anabolic steroids out of competition, in the off-season, in the winter when they're training and they shouldn't be detected in competition. It's only the stupid or totally naive who are actually going to get caught in Atlanta."

De Merode, who heads the International Olympic Committee's medical commission, vigorously defended its anti-doping programme, saying that it was on the way to winning the

battle against drugs, even though cheats would never give up.

The prince earlier reported to the IOC that 90,000 drugs tests were carried out last year all over the world, including an increasing number out of competition.

He said the IOC and the European Union were jointly funding research in five European laboratories into human growth hormone, which is reckoned by many to be the method of choice for top-class drugs cheats.

He doubted whether in the age of AIDS and other blood-transmitted diseases such as hepatitis, athletes would want to use blood doping, which involves blood transfusions to boost

oxygen capacity.

De Merode said that 30 years ago — he took over the medical commission in 1967 — drugs controls only showed up three or four amphetamine-style drugs even though all the other products existed.

"That means that we could detect only five per cent or 10 per cent of the products used by athletes. We have made regular progress, you know the list of products that can be tested for now," he said.

"Instead of having a shadowy area of 80 per cent we have a clearly-lit zone of 80 or 90 per cent and a small crescent that is still dark. And that's when people tell us 'your tests are worth nothing'."

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PHILADELPHIA

Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau in

Braveheart
winner of 6 Academy Awards

Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

CINEMA TEL: 699238

PLAZA

Layla Elwi...in
Ya Dunya Ya Gharami
(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Toy Story
5:00 p.m.

CINEMA TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau in
Braveheart

winner of 6 Academy Awards

Shows: 1:00, 5:00, 8:30

CONCORD "2"

Braveheart

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 (film duration-3 hours)

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oxygen capacity.

De Merode said that 30 years ago — he took over the medical commission in 1967 — drugs controls only showed up three or four amphetamine-style drugs even though all the other products existed.

"That means that we could detect only five per cent or 10 per cent of the products used by athletes. We have made regular progress, you know the list of products that can be tested for now," he said.

"Instead of having a shadowy area of 80 per cent we have a clearly-lit zone of 80 or 90 per cent and a small crescent that is still dark. And that's when people tell us 'your tests are worth nothing'."

Sports

Lankford powers Cardinals past Reds; Giants lose again

CINCINNATI (R) — It was Ray Lankford against the Cincinnati Reds on Monday and Lankford won, powering the St. Louis Cardinals to their fourth consecutive win.

Lankford homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs as the Cardinals bested the Reds 8-3.

"It Was Too Much ray Lankford," Cincinnati manager Ray Knight said. "He hit five bullets against us."

With one out in the first, Lankford hit Roger Salkeld's first pitch over the right-field fence for his 17th homer and a 1-0 lead. In the third, Lankford belted number 18, a two run shot that made it 3-1.

With the Cards ahead 6-3, reliever Lee Smith walked Tom Pagnozzi and Royce Clayton before Lankford drove them both in with a double to cap the scoring.

"He put on a clinic yesterday and today," said St. Louis manager Tony La Russa of Lankford. "He may be the perfect number two hitter, he puts the ball in the hole, he can run the bases, he puts a lot of pressure in the pitcher."

Salkeld (4-3) allowed six runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings for the loss. Mike Morgan (3-3) yielded three runs and six hits in seven innings for the win.

In Atlanta, Greg Maddux won for the fifth time in six decisions as the Braves edged the Expos 5-4 to open an eight-game lead over second-place Montreal in the east.

Maddux (10-6) gave up four runs — two earned — and four hits over seven innings with no walks as the four-time Cy Young award winner raised his home record to 9-1.

The Expos rallied for four runs in the fourth capped by Henry Rodriguez's 26th homer to tie the game at 4-4.

But the Braves regained the lead in the bottom of the inning on Jermaine Dye's RBI single off closer Barry Manuel (2-1), who came on in relief of starter Kirk Rueter.

At Florida, the Marlins pounded out a franchise-record 24 hits, scoring 15 unanswered runs as they rallied from a 5-0 third-inning deficit for a 15-5 win over the Houston Astros.

Florida had 21 singles, two shy of the National League record set by the New York Giants in 1931.

Devon White drove in three runs, Edgar Renteria added a two-run homer and Terry Pendleton had two RBI for the Marlins, who won for just the third time in 13 games.

Donn Pall (1-0) pitched two shutout innings of relief for the victory. Loser Donne wall (6-2) was ripped for seven runs and 12 hits in five innings.

In Chicago, Frank Castillo scattered six hits over eight innings and Sammy Sosa had three hits, including a three-run homer as the Cubs crushed the Pittsburgh Pirates 12-2.

Castillo (3-11) allowed one run, walked none and struck out five. Dan Miceli (1-5) took the loss.

Sosa had a pair of singles before hitting his 29th homer off reliever Steve Parris in the bottom of the eighth to extend Chicago's lead to 11-1. Brian McRae, Leo Gomez and Jose Hernandez added solo homers for the Cubs.

In New York, Jerry Dipoto pitched out of a jam in top of the fifth and the Mets went on to score three runs in the bottom of the frame to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 7-5.

Mets starter Paul Wilson allowed the Phillies to take a 4-3 lead in the top of the fifth. Dipoto (4-1) came on with runners on second and third and none out but struck out Benito Santiago and Pete Incaviglia and got pitcher Russ Springer (2-7) to bunt out.

Rookie Alex Ochoa went 3-for-4 with a pair of RBI and Bernard Gilkey had three hits and scored three runs for New York, which won for the seventh time in 10 games.

At Colorado, Roger Bailey allowed three runs over

7 2/3 innings and made sure he got the win by capping a seven-run third inning with a bases-loaded triple as the Rockies scored a 7-3 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

The Rockies extended their winning streak to six games and tied a major-league record for consecutive home games scoring seven runs or more with 11, established by the 1938 Yankees.

In Los Angeles, Dave Hansen's pinch-single in the bottom of the 10th inning scored Greg Gagne with the game's only run as the Dodgers edged the San Diego Padres 1-0.

Pedro Astacio and Mark Guthrie combined on a five-hitter for Los Angeles. Guthrie (2-0) notched the victory with 1 2/3 hitless innings in relief.

Gagne reached on an error by San Diego shortstop Chris Gomez and was sacrificed to second by Juan Castro. Hanson, batting for Chad Fonville, hit the first pitch he saw from reliever Trevor Hoffman (5-4) into left field.

Ripken streak ends after 14 years

Baltimore Orioles iron man Cal Ripken kept his legendary consecutive games streak going but ended another by playing his first game at a position other than shortstop in more than 14 years Monday.

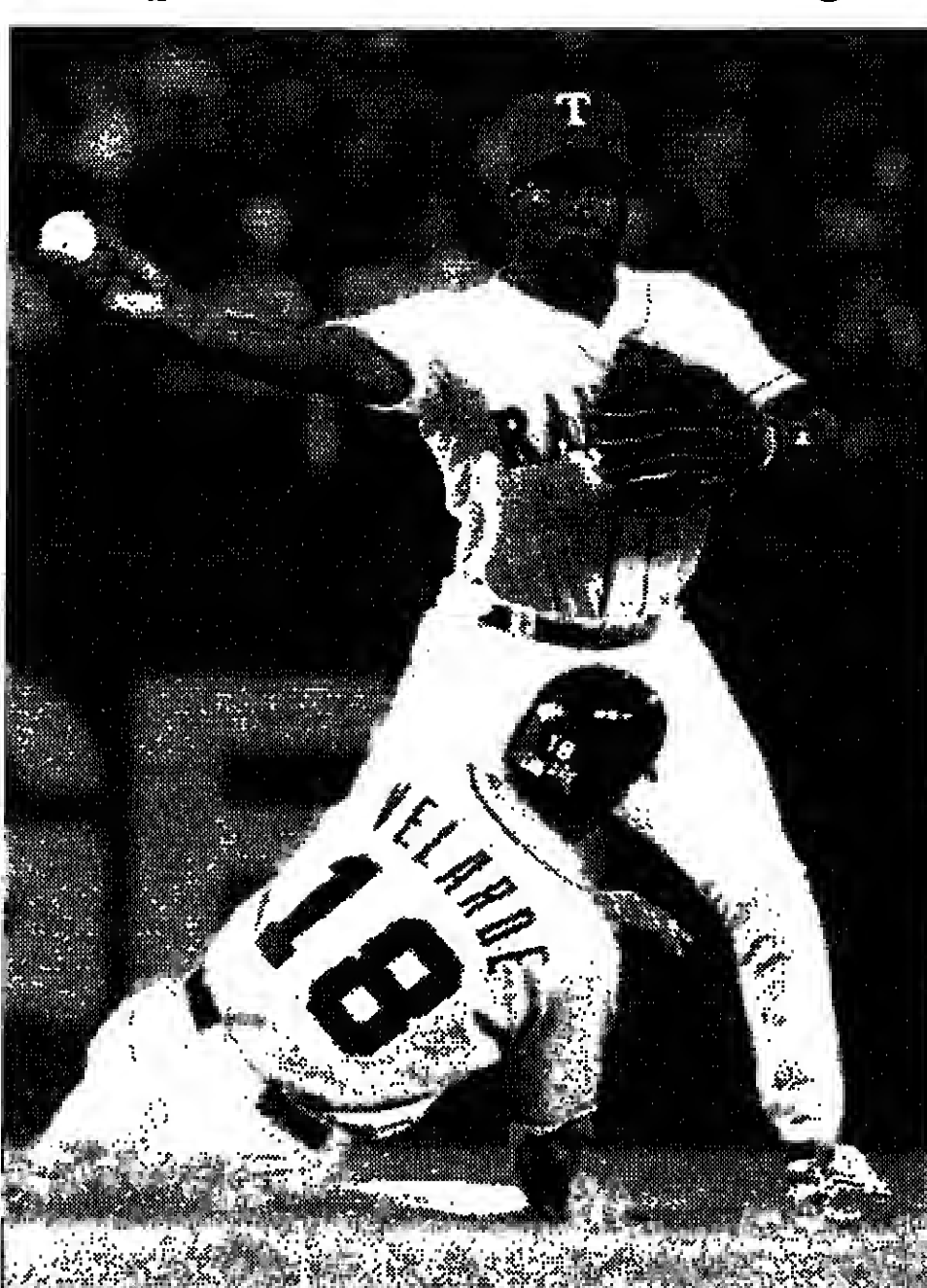
Ripken started at third base after 2,216 straight starts at shortstop but did not miss a beat as he helped the Orioles to a dramatic 8-6 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

"He's just a special player. He's a great shortstop and he put on a clinic at third tonight and made it look easy," said Orioles manager Davey Johnson.

"It was nerve-racking," admitted Ripken about the move. "To me, it's an intense position. You have to think about everything you're going to do before it actually happens."

The Orioles won in dramatic fashion as Bobby Bonilla hit a game-tying three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth and Chris Hoiles added a game-winning two-run shot later in the inning. Ripken began the ninth-inning rally by reaching on an error by shortstop Alex Gonzalez.

Jimmy Haynes (3-5) worked 3 1/3 scoreless innings for the victory in



Texas Rangers second baseman Mark McLemore turns a double play at second ending the fourth inning in Arlington, Texas. Angels' J.T. Snow was out at first. California won 10-7 (Reuters photo)

relief of starter Rick Krivda. Mike Timlin (0-2) gave up both homers to blow the save opportunity.

In Boston, Jeff Frye had three hits and two RBI and Reggie Jefferson broke a tie with a solo homer in the third inning as the Red Sox extended their winning streak to a season-high six games with an 8-6 victory over the New York Yankees.

Mark Hutton (0-1) gave up three runs — two earned — and four hits in 3 2/3 innings of relief for the loss.

In Kansas City, Michael Tucker had a two-run triple in the first inning and David Howard and Mike MacFarlane hit solo homers as the Royals snapped a three-game losing streak with a 6-3 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Mike Magrane (2-2) gave up one run and two hits in 3 1/3 innings for the

victory in relief of starter Tim Lincecum. The Royals jumped on Julian Tavarez (3-6) for four runs in the first two innings.

At Minnesota, Rich Becker drove in four runs with a homer and a single and Scott Aldred scattered seven hits over 7 1/3 innings as the Twins crushed the Chicago White Sox 16-5.

In Milwaukee, Melvin Nieves hit two home runs as the Detroit Tigers homered in each of the first five innings and held on for a 10-9 win over the Brewers.

Chad Curtis, Brad Ausmus and Tony Clark added solo shots to Nieves's 10th and 11th homers for Detroit as Milwaukee starter Ricky Bones (6-11) was tagged for seven runs and eight hits in three-plus innings.

At Texas, Garret Anderson's two-run single highlighted a six-run seventh inning as the California Angels scored the final 10

runs of the game for a 10-7 victory over the Rangers, matching the biggest comeback in team history.

Texas slammed Ryan Hancock for seven runs in the first two innings, but the Angels battled back with one in the fourth and three in the fifth before taking the game in the seventh.

In Oakland, Bob Wolcott pitched a complete game five-hitter and Paul Soltero and Jay Buhner homered, powering the Seattle Mariners to a 5-1 over the Athletics.

Wolcott (6-7), recalled from the minors before the game, threw only 80 pitches en route to his first career complete game as the Mariners won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Wolcott walked none and struck out six, never throwing more than six pitches to any one batter. He outdueled Dave Telgheder, who gave up two runs and five hits over seven innings.

Olajuwon gets multi-year contract extension

ORLANDO (R) — Superstar centre Hakeem Olajuwon, who led Houston to NBA championships in 1994 and 1995, is not a free agent and the Rockets made sure he would not become one any time soon by signing him to a multi-year contract extension.

The Rockets announced the contract deal on Monday at a news conference in Orlando, where Olajuwon was practicing with the U.S. Olympic "dream team."

"As soon as the new collective bargaining agreement was signed, a new contract for Hakeem was our first priority," said Rockets owner Leslie Alexander.

"Hakeem is a unique leader, largely responsible for Houston's first two

world championships, and this gives the Rockets the opportunity to challenge for more NBA titles."

The team did not disclose the terms of the contract for "the dream", but the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday that Olajuwon would receive a five-year deal worth between \$55 million and \$60 million.

The 33-year-old 11-time All-Star had three years remaining on a four-year contract worth \$26.4 million, or an average of \$6.6 million per year. But that contract had a clause that would have allowed Olajuwon to become a free agent after the 1996-97 season.

"I am very fortunate that I will have the opportunity to play my entire career in a Rockets uniform — a privilege that most players do

not have," said Olajuwon, who has played his entire 12-year career with Houston.

The Nigerian-born centre, who became a U.S. citizen in time to play in the Olympics for his adopted country, averaged 26.9 points and 10.9 rebounds last season.

He was named the NBA Most Valuable Player for the 1993-94 season and was MVP of the NBA finals in both 1994 and 1995 after leading the Rockets to championship victories over the New York Knicks and Orlando Magic.

Olajuwon set the NBA record for career blocks (3,190) last season and is one of only nine players in league history to record more than 20,000 points and 11,000 rebounds.

Tour de France

Dane Riis wins 16th stage; police detect bomb on route

LOURDES-HAUTACAM, France (R) — Bjarne Riis of Denmark won the 16th stage of the Tour de France over 199 kms from Agen Tuesday and retained the race leader's yellow jersey.

Frenchman Richard Virenque was second and Switzerland's Laurent Dufaux third.

While the Tour entered its 16th stage Spanish police detonated a bomb Tuesday in the northern city of Pamplona, where the Tour de France cycle race is due to finish its 17th stage Wednesday, Navarre region officials said.

Police set off the four kg (nine lb) device, which was planted in a rubbish bin outside a bank, after receiving an anonymous warning. No one was injured.

The officials did not speculate on who might have planted the bomb, but the Basque separatist group ETA (basque homeland and freedom) has threatened to disrupt the Tour on its passage through the Basque country. Navarre is 25 percent

Basque. Five-time winner Miguel Indurain, a native of Navarre, told Spanish television at the start of the race that he was not worried about attacks from the rebel group because organisers had tried to respect basque sensibilities.

"They are going to broadcast the Tour in Basque and some of the officials are Basque, I don't think it's going to be a problem," he said.

ETA issued a statement Monday in the radical Basque daily newspaper Egin threatening to disrupt the race and last month the group sent a warning letter to the organisers.

Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc told Span-

ish sports daily Marca on Tuesday that he did not expect any problems.

"This visit is our homage to Indurain, to Echavarri (manager of Indurain's Banesto team) and to all the Basques for their commitment with the Tour," he said.

The race travels from Argeles-Gazost in France to Pamplona in Spain Wednesday and returns to France Thursday.

ETA guerrillas have killed some 800 people since 1968, when they started their violent drive for Basque independence.

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Air France honors its top travel agents at the Forte Grand Amman

Air France held its annual dinner for the top travel agents at the Forte Grand Amman, honored by the presence of the Regional Manager for the Near East Mr. Yves Picchi.

A presentation on the new Chateaux de Gaudille hub was done by the Regional Manager for Jordan/Iraq

Mr. Jean-Jacques Ledauphin on a new system implemented by Air France increasing its connecting flights and minimising the connecting time to 40 minutes. This was followed by a rewards ceremony given to its top travel agents.

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Austrian Airlines celebrates third flight



Austrian Airlines hosted a dinner banquet in honour of tourist and travel agencies and businessmen to celebrate the launching of their third flight.

Mr. Sami Abul Saoud, the airline's director for Jordan and Iraq, delivered an address welcoming the guests and announced the creation of a new Business Class on Austrian Airlines

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JIFBANK

Al-Suwadeh
of the Jordan Times

WAS—A coalition of opposition parties and pressures from various public interest groups called for a "mass march" to be held next week, as part of a campaign against a government plan to "lift" subsidies on bread.

The statement issued yesterday by the coalition, which also includes government policy-makers, also called for a public economic conference that would bring together representatives of opposition parties, public interest groups, the government and parliament, to draw up a reform plan for the country.

The main problem lies in the government's economic reform plan which has so far to improve the ailing economic situation in the country," said the statement, which was issued at the end of a three-day meeting between representatives of various public interest groups and government policy-makers.

"We believe that economic reform can be achieved only through pub-

lic participation," the statement said.

The coalition rejected a proposal by the government to raise prices for staples in an attempt to "balance the budget" by decision of parliament.

"The government that intends to lift subsidies and that will be a government of leading public opinion change," said the statement.

Last week, Mr. Abdullatif Abu Hammad said his government would not raise prices for staples.

He asserted that since the government has paid for the subsidies, it should not raise prices.

His statement came after the government had announced that it would raise prices for staples.

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